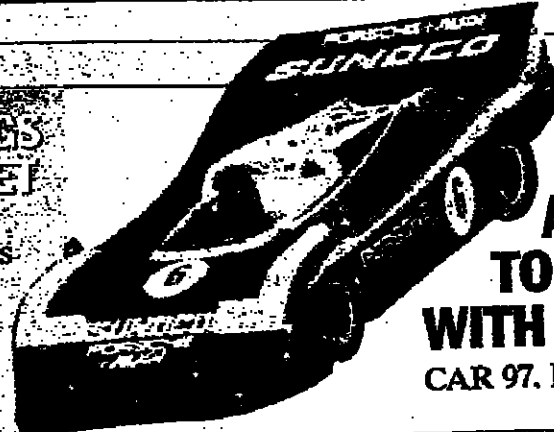


**EVERY INNINGS
EVERY WICKET**

All the first class
cricket reports
today and
every day



**WIN
A VIP TRIP
TO LE MANS
WITH PORSCHE**
CAR 97, PAGE 5

**YOUR HOUSE
UNDER
LABOUR**

The prospects
WEEKEND
MONEY

**SEXIEST MAN
IN CINEMA**

Sean Bean interview
MAGAZINE

MONDAY

**THE TIMES
FOR ONLY**

**10p
EVERY
MONDAY**

PLUS INSIDE: WEEKEND, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND DIRECTORY, PAGES 5-6

Rank-and-file support for Hague

Local Tories demand vote on leadership

By Andrew Pierce, James Landale and Stephen Farrell

A GROWING rebellion by local Conservative associations over the conduct of the party's leadership contest is threatening to undermine the outcome, which will be decided by 164 MPs in a secret ballot.

A Times survey of 90 constituency associations has found almost unanimous support for an urgent overhaul of the rules to give them a direct say in the choice of leader.

William Hague, 36, the youngest contender, has been Magic targeted as the overwhelming favourite among the rank-and-file to succeed John Major. The former Welsh Secretary secured the support of more than half the association chairmen who were willing to name their preferred choice.

Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, and Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, received no backing. Support for John Redwood, Peter Lilley, and Stephen Dorrell was evenly matched.

The deepening anger among activists over their exclusion from the leadership process has caused concern at Conservative Central Office. Senior party officials already feared that the absence in the ballot of any Tory MPs from Wales or Scotland, and only one from Birmingham, would be exploited by Labour. "They will paint us as an English regional party," said one official last night.

The dispute was fuelled yesterday by the intervention of Robin Hodgson, the chairman of the National Union, which is responsible for the voluntary wing of the party and is based at Central Office. He told Radio 4's *The World*



Lord Blake: "Reform is long overdue"

at One that there should be a change in the election rules to give local parties a 20 per cent share of the vote in leadership contests. He said the change could be introduced in time to pick John Major's successor.

"We have a mechanism for doing it, and it requires the 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers to decide that they would like to send this signal. Whether they do or don't, that is up to them," Mr Hodgson said.

The National Union, which has 300,000 members, has launched a consultation process. One proposal is that, in return for a role in party leadership contests, local associations would lose their exclusive say in the choice of constituency candidates.

Tory MPs engage in a consultation process with their local associations before they cast their vote in leadership contests. Many chairmen contacted by *The Times* feared, however, that their views would be ignored in the secret ballot. "The associations were 100 per cent behind Margaret Thatcher, but she failed to win by a big enough margin to

survive. That is why we want our own say," said one chairman last night.

Sir Norman Fowler, the former Tory party chairman, and Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, a former deputy chairman, have backed the rebellion.

Lord Blake, the Tory party historian and constitutionalist, also urged the party to change or run the risk of alienating its supporters.

"The time for reform is long overdue," he said. "The National Union was set up in the days of Disraeli. While the members are consulted, they have never had a direct say in the selection of their leader."

Sir Edward Heath was the first leader to be chosen by a ballot of MPs in 1965. His election replaced the system in which the party leader was chosen by party grandees.

Lord Blake said: "Times have changed and the Conservative Party must change with them. The absence of MPs in the ranks of the United Kingdom has made the need for a review all the more urgent."

The Labour Party has modernised. It is time for the Conservatives to follow suit. I suspect it is too late for the next contest. But it should be the last one where MPs, and MPs alone, choose the leader of the Conservative Party."

Sir Norman, the sole surviving Tory MP in Birmingham, said the local constituency associations could inspire the Tory fightback. However, the absence of any Tory MPs in major cities such as Liverpool, Coventry, Manchester, and

Continued on page 2, col 5
Appeal by Redwood, page 2
Leading article, page 23

Question time cut attacked

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR was last night accused by Conservatives of rushing through arbitrary parliamentary reforms after he abolished the twice-weekly Commons spectacle of Prime Minister's question time.

The Prime Minister abandoned the system, introduced in 1961, of two 15-minute sessions a week, replacing them with a single half-hour session each Wednesday.

Mr Blair and John Major have both been dismayed at the poor quality of question

time. The cheering and jeering during the last Parliament and both main party leaders have appealed to backbenchers to show restraint.

However, the sessions in the final days of the last Parliament provoked the most bitter exchanges between Mr Major and Mr Blair and prompted MPs to dismiss the sessions as a waste of time.

The changes, which begin on May 21, will be followed by a detailed study of Commons procedures by a select committee set up to investigate further reforms to question time and Prime Minister's questions.

The announcement is the first of a raft of Commons reforms that Labour proposals to be examined are plans for a "constituency week" in which MPs can arrange meetings with constituents, a shorter summer recess, more opportunities for MPs to question ministers during recess and an end to legislation running out of Commons time at the end of a parliamentary session.

The speed with which Mr Blair introduced the changes, and his decision not to consult MPs before announcing the reforms, drew strong criticism

from senior Tories who accused him of abusing his power by not asking for the approval of the Commons.

A Downing Street spokesman denied that the failure to consult MPs amounted to a breach of Commons convention. "The Prime Minister's question time is very much a matter for the Prime Minister. MPs can make their views known to the special committee."

Mr Major voiced concern over the "arbitrary" nature of the changes. William Hague, one of the Tory leadership candidates, said: "It's plain that Mr Blair is going to try to bulldoze through his policies without giving MPs the chance to put him to test."

The promise of further reforms to Prime Minister's questions also prompted fears among some MPs that Labour might end the system under which the Leader of Government receives no advance notice of questions.

MPs are also worried that the Prime Minister might introduce a similar system to that used for Commons questions to ministers, under which members table questions days in advance, but are allowed a supplementary question on the same issue.



Spice Girls Geri and Emma arriving at Manchester Opera House yesterday to rehearse for the Prince's Trust 21st anniversary celebration

Girl power spices up Prince's evening

By Russell Jenkins

THE Spice Girls sang live last night for the first time on a British stage to show they can perform their complicated harmonies without the aid of backing tapes.

They started their Manchester show in fine style, ambushing the Prince of Wales during the "line-up" presentation before their gala performance for the 21st anniversary of the Prince's Trust. Mel B and Geri left the line and simultaneously kissed the Prince, leaving

him with lipstick marks on his cheeks and the rest of his face just as red. They then asked him if they could come to dinner at the palace some time: his reply is not known.

The "girl power" singing demonstration, aimed at silencing critics who claim they are an over-hyped studio phenomenon, came at the end of the gala performance. The all-girl band has to move only one further down the line of succession from the Prince of Wales before they reach their biggest royal fan: Geri, Victoria, Emma, Mel C

and Mel B are Prince William's favourite group. They topped the bill with Phil Collins, Julian Clary, Michael Barrymore and Jennifer Aniston, a star of the American sitcom *Friends*.

Security was tight around Manchester's Opera House where the Spice Girls' usual audience of screaming teenagers was replaced by the North West's showbusiness "aristocracy", all in black tie and evening dress and paying £175 a ticket. Extra police were drafted in to control the crowds "star

spotting" outside the venue on Quay Street and, earlier in the day, the auditorium and surrounding areas were checked with high-tech equipment and sniffer dogs.

The girls met the Prince again at the end of the concert, which was hosted by Sir David Frost and Joanna Lumley. They left little to chance for a performance that was taking on much more importance than a mimed rendition of their latest hit. They rehearsed their routine at the Apollo Theatre, Ardwick Green, during the day.



Chris Patten and Helmut Kohl in action yesterday

Happy eaters tuck into a big Chinese

From Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong

CHRIS PATTEN and Helmut Kohl, two of the mightiest eaters among world leaders, yesterday demolished one of the mightiest meals Hong Kong could provide.

Although many here think a second Anschluss will occur on July 1, the colony's Governor and the German Chancellor forgot dull cares and waded down the "Guangdong Deluxe Dim Sum" lunch at Yung Kee's, Hong Kong's most famous goose restaurant. The Himalayas of roast goose served in its many variations there would make a trencherman like Herr Kohl weep with greedy pleasure.

The £30 menu, with spelling mistakes, was: steamed dumpling with crab spawn;

steamed shrimps in dumpling; steamed vegetable and pork in dumpling; steamed egg yolk and sweet cream in bun; deep fried turnip balls; deep fried chopped crab meat; steamed scallop in dumpling; fried dumpling; roasted goose; fresh shredded seafood and bean curd soup; fresh lobster ball and yellow fungus; mushroom with fresh vegetable; steamed fresh garoupa; crabmeat with noodle in soup; deluxe dessert and seasonal fruit platter, washed down with Tsingtao beer, from a north Chinese brewery founded in the last century by Germans. Afterwards, feeling peckish, Mr Patten stopped off at his favourite bakery for egg tarts.

Shares again at record high

The stock market reached a new record for the sixth consecutive day amid optimism about the interest rate outlook in America and the UK.

The FTSE 100 share index closed up 50.5 at 4630.9 last night following another 50-point rise on Wall Street overnight. However, the pound closed sharply down for the second day running, falling two and half pence to DM2.4721 as the US dollar also lost ground against the mark and the Japanese yen. Pages 27, 30

Gold coin marks royal anniversary

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Royal Mint at Llantrisant and struck two gold crown coins to mark their 50th wedding anniversary. They also went to Aberfan and met survivors of the 1966 disaster.

It is the first time in the history of modern UK coinage that the monarch's effigy does not appear alone on a coin. A version with a face value of £5 will be available nearer the anniversary, on November 20. Page 6



Buying The Times overseas:
Australia \$11.00, Belgium 9.00, Canada 11.00, Denmark 18.00, Germany 11.00, France 11.00, Greece 12.00, Hong Kong 11.00, Ireland 11.00, Italy 11.00, Japan 11.00, Korea 11.00, Luxembourg 11.00, Malaysia 11.00, Netherlands 11.00, New Zealand 11.00, Norway 11.00, Portugal 11.00, Singapore 11.00, Spain 11.00, Sweden 11.00, Switzerland 11.00, Taiwan 11.00, Thailand 11.00, USA 11.00, UK 11.00, West Germany 11.00.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



WEATHER 26
CROSSWORD 26
COURT & SOCIAL 24

LETTERS 23, 38
OBITUARIES 25
SIMON JENKINS 22

BUSINESS NEWS 27-30
WEEKEND MONEY 31-41
SPORT 44-52

GARDENING: WEEKEND 4-6
PROPERTY: WEEKEND 7-10
TRAVEL: WEEKEND 17-24

YOU CAN
WITH A NISSAN

NEW LABOUR. NEW PRIMERA.

(YOU DON'T HAVE TO
BE IN PARLIAMENT TO
HAVE PRIVILEGES.)

IT'S A DRIVER'S CAR. SO DRIVE IT.
THE NEW PRIMERA

FOR MORE INFORMATION TELEPHONE 0545 65 99 66

THE TIMES ON MONDAY

EVERY 10 P MONDAY

15 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT

THE FINAL CURTAIN OF THE PREMIERSHIP
Will Middlesbrough go down?

MOTOR RACING
Villeneuve's big test at Monaco

THE ASHES: A 12-PAGE TIMES GUIDE

SECRET PATHS: WOMEN IN THE NEW MID-LIFE
A new series

Agreement can be reached at EU summit, says Cook

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE new diplomacy towards the European Union was already reaping rewards and would lead to the Government reaching a deal with its EU partners at the Amsterdam summit, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

Speaking after a two-hour meeting at Downing Street between Tony Blair and Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, who will host next month's talks, Mr Cook said that Mr Blair was in a "strong, authoritative" position in Europe and that the Government was confident of securing the retention of UK border controls at the signing of the proposed EU treaty. "Britain now negotiates from strength in Westminster and with respect in Europe."

The London meeting, held at Mr Kok's request, ended a hectic first week as Prime Minister for Mr Blair who was told yesterday that President Clinton will extend his visit to Europe at the end of this month to pay a visit to Downing Street.

Mr Cook claimed that Labour's willingness to sign up to the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty marked a breakthrough in Britain's relationship with its European partners which would be followed by greater co-operation.

However, Labour leaders insisted that Britain would not bow to pressure to give up the country's external border controls, and Mr Kok admitted that "burning issues" remained to be resolved before agreement could be reached in Amsterdam. Mr Cook is pressing for a legal commitment from EU member countries acknowledging Britain's



Wim Kok said that compromise needed

relationship with its European partners which would be followed by greater co-operation. However, Labour leaders insisted that Britain would not bow to pressure to give up the country's external border controls, and Mr Kok admitted that "burning issues" remained to be resolved before agreement could be reached in Amsterdam. Mr Cook is pressing for a legal commitment from EU member countries acknowledging Britain's

Dobson orders early end to 'two-tier' NHS

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN IMMEDIATE start is to be made on dismantling many of the key NHS reforms introduced by the Conservatives. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, announced yesterday that he wants an action plan drawn up through the summer and autumn to get rid of the internal market created in 1991.

He has asked Alan Langlands, the NHS chief executive, to draw up "with vigour" a plan to slash bureaucracy, abolish efficiency targets and end the "two-tierism" he believes gives unfair advantages to fundholding GPs. He said: "There are examples galore where the so-called internal market, in which GP

fundholders and health authorities buy services from NHS trusts, has led to a two-tier health service."

Mr Dobson, speaking to officials at the NHS Executive headquarters in Leeds, promised not to introduce wholesale reforms on the 1989 scale. "The imposition of further upheaval could not be justified in terms of cost alone. More importantly, it would be confusing for the public and grossly unfair on staff."

Among changes promised almost immediately were a review of the way resources were split between primary and secondary care, and steps to ensure fundholders did not enjoy unfair advantages.

opt-out from the treaty's removal of external border controls from member states. The Government is concerned that an opt-out which was not set out in strict legal terms could be over-ruled at a later date.

Mr Cook made clear that the Government would not relinquish Britain's veto on defence, security, justice and home affairs, and said that British ministers were making "substantial progress" in securing their objectives.

However, after the lunchtime session between the national leaders and their foreign ministers, there were doubts over the precise nature of the compromise to be struck at Amsterdam. Mr Kok said that Britain's move on the social chapter constituted "an enormous step forward", but that there were still issues to be sorted out. "We have listened very carefully to what Prime Minister Blair and Minister Cook said, but it would be an exaggeration if I were to say that it will be easy to find solutions for all of those difficult problems," he said.

Mr Kok requested the meeting to establish the level of support he can expect from Britain under Labour in pushing through moves towards further EU integration. The Dutch, current holders of the EU presidency, seem to have accepted that under Labour, as much as under the Tories, Britain will insist on retaining border controls.

Mr Kok said: "Compromises will be needed all over Europe. Without compromises there will be no Treaty of Amsterdam."

Mr Cook said that he would be "demanding an agreement that gives us a clear legal basis for Britain retaining those border controls."

Our case was heard with courtesy and we got a good and positive response. I now believe that it will be possible for us to reach an agreement at Amsterdam and we have told the presidency that it will be our intention to come to Amsterdam to reach agreement provided that we are satisfied that British national interests have been served."



Lenny Lottery, formerly known as Aidan McGurran

Lenny Lottery goes for jackpot with rival paper

By CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A FRESH battle between Britain's warring tabloids erupted yesterday after Lenny Lottery, *The Sun's* prized National Lottery correspondent, decided to try his luck at the *Mirror*.

Executives at *The Sun* were consulting copyright and trademark lawyers over the poaching of Lenny Lottery — reporter Aidan McGurran, 34 — who changed his name by deed poll in 1994 when the character was invented by Stuart Higgins, Editor of *The Sun*.

Since then he has starred in promotional videos and made many television appearances. He started the balls rolling on the BBC's live Christmas lottery show. *Mirror* executives, cock-a-hoop at luring such a figure from their rival, are understood to be intending to use the name as their own. The name was technically trademarked to *The Sun*, but since a person cannot be stopped from using his own name, it is unlikely legal action can be

taken. "The *Sun* is not pleased about this at all," an insider said.

It was understood last night that *The Sun* was intending to rename Brian Flynn, its new lottery correspondent, Sir Lenny Lottery.

There is also expected to be a tussle over the original costume — a white suit decorated with red balls which Lenny Lottery wore for guest appearances, and was rumoured to have cost *The Sun* £1,000. The costume is now hanging in his wardrobe in Billerica, Essex.

Piers Morgan, Editor of the *Mirror*, said last night: "It is correct that Mr Lottery has today joined the *Mirror*. He will continue to use his name, on which he has full copyright, although in the office we may refer to him by his full name of Leonard Lottery, since we feel he has moved upmarket."

Mr Lottery said of his appointment: "I want to be on the winning team, and I feel like I have won the jackpot."

RUC 'did not stop fatal beating'

Nationalists yesterday accused RUC officers of refusing to go to the aid of a young Roman Catholic father as he was being beaten up by a 30-strong loyalist mob. Robert Hamill, 25, died in hospital yesterday two weeks after he suffered severe head injuries in the attack at Portadown, Co Armagh.

Relatives and friends who witnessed the beating said that police remained in a Land Rover yards from the scene of the attack. John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said that the circumstances surrounding Mr Hamill's death gave "cause for great concern."

Abduction fear

A 14-year-old girl missing from her home in Woolwich, southeast London, since Sunday may have been abducted, police believe. The parents of Kirsty Tidman said that her disappearance was totally out of character. Officers arrested a 30-year-old man in connection with the case on Wednesday but he was released the following day pending further inquiries. Kirsty was last seen wearing a grey tracksuit and black trainers.

Seal ceremony

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, was sworn in to the ancient office of Lord Keeper of the Great Seal at the High Court in Edinburgh. Swearing allegiance to the Queen and her heirs, he became the first Labour MP in 21 years to be appointed as guardian of the seal of Scottish kings. First used by Duncan II in 1094, the seal authenticated all state documents until the Act of Union with England was passed in 1707.

School protest

More than 100 pupils broke windows and set off fire alarms and extinguishers at Montgomery School in Sturry, Kent, in protest at the redundancy of five teachers. Rodney Frenkes, the headmaster, praised the pupils' loyalty to their teachers and said that their concern would be noted, but he said that the school needed to lose staff because of a £155,000 deficit in this year's budget. The school became grant-maintained four years ago.

Rape verdict

A freelance journalist who refused to stop having sex with a £1,500-a-night prostitute after his condom slipped off was jailed for 2½ years for rape. Kevin Davis, 38, from South Africa, was also found guilty of stealing the woman's fee and £500 from her purse. At the Old Bailey, Sir Lawrence Verney, QC, Recorder of London, said the well-spoken blonde, aged 22, "was willing to have sexual intercourse only if a condom was used."

Tory associations must lead fight, says Redwood

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN REDWOOD has appealed to every Conservative association whose MP has been defeated to appoint a political representative in their place to lead the fightback against Labour.

The former Welsh Secretary made the proposal in a letter to every constituency chairman. He said substitute MPs and councillors should be appointed within days in constituencies that lost their MP last week and where the Conservatives no longer had any councillors. Mr Redwood told a Westminster press conference that the party had to face up rapidly to the fact that it had been routed in Scotland, Wales, the North and large parts of the West Midlands. "Each constituency needs someone to offer political leadership on national issues and someone on local issues. MPs and council majority or minority leaders do the job for us," he said. "Where we have neither, the constituency should choose a parliamentary and a council spokesman."

Each constituency with a former Conservative MP should talk to them about



Redwood: said party had too few members

their experiences and preferences. We can utilise the help and experience of defeated MPs. We must restore a Conservative presence. We must have a Conservative voice in the media. There can be no wilderness zones for the Conservative Party. The fightback can begin today."

Mr Redwood also urged Bill Cash, the Eurosceptic MP, not to stand for the party leadership. Mr Cash, who would probably secure only a handful of votes, would take them from the heavyweight right-

wing candidates. Mr Cash is unhappy that Mr Redwood might offer Kenneth Clarke, a champion of a single currency, a place in his Shadow Cabinet.

Mr Redwood said: "I have been entirely clear about Europe — none clearer. I have made crystal clear that I don't want to see the abolition of the pound. I am the only one of the leadership contenders to say so in my election manifesto."

"As leader of the party I would take pride in leading the whole party into the lobbies against the single currency if Labour was foolish enough to go ahead."

He rejected a call for constitutional change to ensure that Central Office could sack a candidate who had lost the confidence of the leadership, such as Neil Hamilton, who lost Tatton to Martin Bell. "If the leadership completely lost confidence in a particular MP or candidate, I'm sure that telling that MP or candidate so would have quite an impact upon their future," Mr Redwood said.

The party's problem was that it had far too few members, he added. "I don't think that plunging ourselves into huge constitutional rows would be at all helpful."

Local Tories demand vote

Continued from page 1

Wolverhampton, meant the selection process had been rendered unsatisfactory.

He welcomed the National Union proposal for an electoral college. "In all conscience, that is a modest enough change, but its importance is immensely symbolic," he wrote in *The Express*.

However, there is strong resistance from Tory MPs. Sir Archie Hamilton, the favourite to become the next chairman of the 1922 committee of backbench MPs, which sets the rules, said: "If we extend the franchise to local party members, we would have to offer the same right to members of the House of Lords."

"It is a complicated process. On balance, I would prefer control to remain with the parliamentary party. Sometimes we need to change the

leader, but the grassroots traditionally remain loyal to the leader of the day whoever it is."

Lord Tebbit, a former party chairman, also opposed the move. "Peers would also demand a 20 per cent share of the vote. It would leave MPs, who work closely with the leader, with barely more than half the vote. It could be a disaster. We should look at the rules after a new leader is chosen, not in the immediate aftermath of a heavy defeat."

Some chairman said there could be a further haemorrhaging of membership if activists were excluded.

Brian Grinstead, the chairman of Brighton Kempdown Conservatives whose MP of 27 years, Sir Andrew Bowden, was defeated last week, said: "Until last week I would have said unequivocally no, on the

basis that the leader has to do his or her job on the floor of the house and the best, in fact only, people who could decide were the MPs."

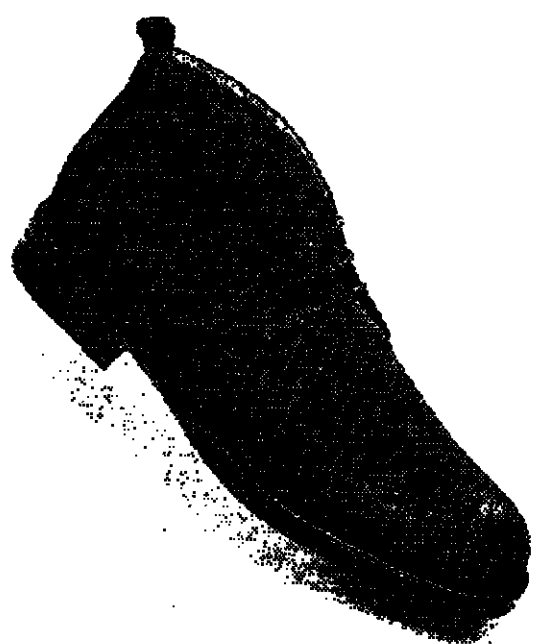
"Now, I have fundamentally changed my position. It would mean there was no Welsh or Scottish voice in the election of the leader. You cannot elect the leader of a national party if parts of that national party do not have a say."

Alistair Orr, the chairman of Stirling Conservatives, whose MP, Michael Forsyth, was one of the most high-profile casualties of the election, said: "The rules have to be changed. Otherwise it will look like an English leader chosen by an English party which will hamper our recovery north of the border."

Leading article, page 23

B

relaxed.



BALLY
SWITZERLAND
SINCE 1881

B informed, call 0800 834865

THE SUNDAY TIMES



LAYING DOWN THE LAW

Read the inside story of Tony Blair's commanding first week in power

PLUS
Susan Crosland interviews Gordon Brown

In Focus, tomorrow
THE SUNDAY TIMES
IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

The woman who kept her clothes on at Cannes

Dalya Alberge on how the world of the film starlet has changed little, even when one of them breaks the rules

THE film world was not wasting much of its creativity on real life yesterday. Starlets used the same old script to grab attention: just as producers used the same old lines to try to grab a starlet.

But there was one surprise ending at the speeded-up version of the dating game that takes place at the Cannes Film Festival. Angie Everhart, model and would-be actress, found a way to shock everyone. She emerged almost fully clothed in public. Well, really! The publicist for Ms Everhart, who is 27ish and a former fiancée of Sylvester Stallone, had skillfully ensured a massive turnout at a photocall on the pier, by promising that she would be wearing something so skimpy that the skinight number worn last year by Pamela Anderson would seem like "a nun's habit". In fact the designer of Ms Everhart's feminine, flowing outfit had not saved much on material.

A mob of paparazzi arrived, surging down the pier, crushing a deckchair to bits and trampling over one another to get near her. Those at the front screamed out her name in the hope that she would flirt with their lens. Those at the back held up their cameras above their heads in the hope of



The end of the pier show: Angie Everhart at her photocall yesterday. Other starlets were using more traditional methods to seek attention at the festival

snapping something over the screen. That's Cannes. If you want to get noticed, wear the bare minimum, or get the publicists to suggest that you'll be doing something outrageous. Plus ça change: in the 1950s, a bikini-clad Brigitte Bardot and a topless Simone Sylva came

to symbolise the town's association with sun, sea and sex.

Along the Croisette yesterday, there were several mostly blonde starlets who hoped that history would repeat itself in the traditional way. Miss Toronto, Miss Illinois, Miss Iceland and Miss Alberta — known to their families

back home as Shannon Snider, Vanessa Bednar, Berglind Olafsdottir and Erin Wilson — were on parade, flown over by the Hawaiian Tropics sun-care company whose annual publicity pageant attracts more than 20,000 hopefuls. Of the 15 hand-picked by the company's founder, Rob Rice,

each dreams of being discovered by a producer, a director or a casting agent.

This is a world where looking good is all that matters and fairytales do come true. Everhart is among numerous models turning up yesterday to promote her first film.

Abel Ferrara's thriller *The Blackout*.

Erin Wilson, 22, looked entirely at ease perched on the lap of Mr Rice. She is cute, coquettish and getting noticed, though not always by the right people. She spoke of some of the festival's more suspect characters who have been

handing her their calling-cards, asking her to come up and see them some time.

Mr Rice, who seems to act as a protective father-figure for the girls, decides on whether a card is worth pursuing: 90 per cent are not worth it, he tells his girls. Ms Wilson hopes to go to the right parties to meet the right guys — guys who can make a difference: "I'd like to be a soap opera queen."

Mr Rice has strict rules about early bedtime and no boys at the house. Such is the desperation to make it that some girls — not his girls — are prepared to do anything. The men here know it, and use exorbitant chair-up lines. From a producer yesterday: "I'd like another child. What are you doing tonight?"

Perhaps they've just watched too many films. But, for some actresses, such lines do work. The famous casting-couch is far from thread-bare. The problem is that it is difficult to stand out from the estimated 100,000 people who have come to the festival. Traffic is almost at a standstill as people are forced off the pavement and promenade.

Such is the desperation to see a star that, as soon as a few metal barriers are erected near a hotel or the beach, a crowd assembles in seconds. One girl among those near the Majestic Hotel yesterday said she had no idea whom she might see: she shrugged her shoulders and remained there.

Everyone's attention was on the crowded road, for the first sight of a celebrity: Stallone. The Spice Girls, Liz Hurley and Hugh Grant are among stars expected this weekend. No one is sure exactly when. Not one person was looking the other way, across the serene beauty of the bay.

Schoolboys told to wear blouses as punishment

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A HEADMASTER made a group of 16-year-old boys change into girls' blouses as a punishment for having their shirts signed by friends to mark the end of their GCSE studies.

The boys, pupils at the Cathedral School in Wakefield, had to wear the ill-fitting blouses from the school store to lessons, where they suffered the "big girl's blouse" taunts of their classmates.

Parents of some of the boys have complained about what they say is a public humiliation and are demanding an apology. But the headmaster, Stewart Martin, has refused, saying that he would not tolerate "wilful damage" to property that could set a bad example to the school's younger pupils.

About 12 boys signed the shirts as farewell mementoes shortly before ending formal lessons and beginning study leave to prepare for their examinations this summer. It is not known how many were ordered to change into blouses.

Pauline Smith, whose son Carl was among those made to change, said: "The punishment does not fit the crime and we will not let this drop."

Her son is 6ft 3in and 18st. "Carl was ridiculed. He is a big lad, and he is conscious of his weight. We don't want an apology for ourselves, but we

think the boys involved should get one."

Another parent, Donald Boughton, has complained to Wakefield education authority. "I thought public humiliation had ended when they did away with the stocks, but obviously not," he said.

"My son Ian had to wear a girl's blouse and a pullover that was ridiculously small. They went back to their classroom and all the students had a good laugh, and so did the teacher. Another teacher brought one of her students from her class followed her to see what all the laughter was about and it escalated."

"I don't feel that humiliation like that by a headmaster is relevant at all. As a head, he may be quite good at his job generally, but he has made a mistake and he should be big enough to apologise."

Mr Martin, 47, is the first head of the school, which formed by a merger of two schools in 1993. He is known as a stickler for the rules and a disciplinarian. Although it is a Church school it has no direct link with the cathedral.

John McLeod, chief education officer for Wakefield council, said: "Matters of school discipline are for the head and governors and the authority does not comment on questions like this."

PC puts the brakes on riding Miss Marple bike

BY LIN JENKINS

DOMINIC SAATI embraced his role as community policeman in an affluent Buckinghamshire village, determined to display the traditional virtues of being friendly, helpful and vigilant.

To improve communications, the parish council gave the special constable a mobile phone. However, when he asked for a bicycle, he was less than impressed to be given a girl's light blue fold-up model handed down from the 14-year-old niece of a councillor.

To make matters worse, when Constable Saati, 24, refused to ride the bike for fear of being laughed at on his rounds in Hazlemere, he was branded "a sulky kid" by Maggie Wisdom, a member of the council, who said she would like to see him use the machine for a month "and then say he can't ride it". The council duly voted to force the policeman to give the bicycle a full trial before paying out £250 for the mountain bike he would have preferred.

The council confirmed that Constable Saati had told them he would rather stick to patrolling on foot than be seen on "a stupid, Miss Marple-style bike". His stance has won the backing of Thames Valley Police, who said they felt unable to take up the offer of the bicycle as they doubted it provided "a suitable image for a uniformed officer".

Hughie Green had famous 'love-child', mourners told

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MOURNERS at the funeral of Hughie Green were startled to be told yesterday that the talent-show host had sired a "love-child" who is now one of the best known female personalities in British television.

In an irreverent oration, a lifelong friend regaled the congregation with tales of Green's energetic love life. The exuberant creator of *Opportunity Knocks* enjoyed a string of mistresses in his unorthodox private life, said the friend, Noel Botham, a former correspondent for the *National Enquirer*. But he refused to reveal the identity of Mr Green's illegitimate celebrity daughter.

He said: "I don't know if this girl even knows that Hughie is her dad, but he used to see her on the TV or in the newspapers and say 'that daughter of mine again'."

Mr Botham said that before Mr Green died from cancer the two had agreed on what should be said at his funeral. He said that the motive for betraying details of Mr Green's sexual conquests was to give the lie to allegations



Green: reputed to have enjoyed tangled love life

vision, the stage and politics paid more traditional tributes to the man who created the television clapperboard to measure audience approval.

He is credited with discovering performers including Freddie Starr, Frank Carson, Mary Hopkin, the Bachelors, Pam Ayres, Little and Large, Russ Abbott and Les Dawson. Another of his protégés — the former child star, Lena Zavaroni, now aged 33, described Mr Green as "a great big granddad". She said aged 77, "was always joking, always smiling... I was very lucky".

Nigel Griffiths, a Trade and Industry Minister, said: "His place in the history of television is secure and his place in the hearts of millions of people also. This was a man who was an actor, a businessman, a pioneer in radio and TV. This was a man who captured the talent in others."

Mr Green's four granddaughters and his son and daughter led the mourners in thunders of rain at the cemetery. His former wife Clare, who he met when he was 15 and she was 13 and married in 1942, died two years ago.

Your Bonus from Clinique at Fortnum & Mason

Basics and Beyond

Your gift with the purchase of any two or more Clinique products.

CLINIQUE
clarifying lotion 2

CLINIQUE
dramatically different moisturizing lotion

CLINIQUE
all about lips

CLINIQUE
naturally glossy mascara

CLINIQUE
soft-pressed powder blusher

CLINIQUE
long last lipstick

CLINIQUE
aromatics elixir

CLINIQUE
lip brush

Clarifying Lotion 2

Dramatically Different Moisturizing Lotion

All About Lips

Soft-Pressed Powder Blusher - Nude Nude

Naturally Glossy Mascara - Naturally Black

Long Last Lipstick - Apricot/Azure

Aromatics Elixir Perfume Spray

Lip Brush

Complimentary Appointment

Ask about NEW All About Lips.
Targeted treatment for lips.
Smooths, renews, prepares.
Keeps lips soft and beautiful.

Offer available until Saturday 24th May 1997.
One gift per customer, while stocks last.

CLINIQUE

Allegory Tested.
100% Fragrance Free.
(with the exception of Aromatics Elixir - Aromatic Fragrance)

FORTNUM & MASON

181 PICCADILLY LONDON W1A 1ER
TEL: 0171-734 8040 EXT: 128/129 FAX: 0171-437 3278
PERFUMERY DEPARTMENT, FIRST FLOOR.

What Order Form

Please send a gift with my order of any two or more Clinique products. Offer available until Saturday 24th May 1997. One gift per customer, while stocks last.

CLINIQUE FACIAL SOAP	CLINIQUE LOTION 1 & 2	CLINIQUE LOTION 3	CLINIQUE LOTION 4
150g	125ml	125ml	125ml
£11.00	£21.00	£24.50	£27.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50	£7.00	£7.50	£8.00
100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml
£7.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
50ml	50ml	50ml	50ml
£3.50			

Lady Ridsdale displays James Bond's fighting spirit after jury acquits men of trying to rob her

Moneypenny is shaken but not deterred by trial

BY JOANNA BAILE

TWO young men were acquitted yesterday of conspiracy to rob the woman who was the inspiration for Ian Fleming's Miss Moneypenny.

Victoire Ridsdale, 75, a former intelligence assistant, told Southwark Crown Court on Tuesday how she fought off a street robber with a well-stocked kick with a high-heeled shoe after he tried to pull off her wedding ring.

Lady Ridsdale and her husband, Sir Julian, 81, a former Tory MP, were ambushed as they returned to their home in The Boltons, Kensington, after an evening out. Lady Ridsdale's blow to the groin, launched from the passenger seat of her car, left the robber "doubled up in pain", she said. He and his accomplice, who were wearing crash helmets, fled soon after.

Yesterday the jury found Christopher Wynter, 18, and David Stephenson, 20, not guilty. The two men, arrested after being seen on a motorcycle near the robbery scene, said that it was a case of mistaken identity.

After the verdict Lady Ridsdale said that she had no regrets about giving evidence, despite police warnings that the men could be acquitted. "I had to do my duty."

She worked with Fleming during the war. As the only woman in his office, she acknowledged that she was the writer's inspiration for Miss Moneypenny, the secretary of James Bond's boss, M.

Whereas in the novels Miss Moneypenny's love for Bond went unrequited, Lady Ridsdale suspects that in real life the roles were reversed. "Fleming based Bond on himself — he was the brave, handsome spy who had women falling at his feet," she said. "He was always wooing me with presents of silk stock-

ings and lipstick from strange places, but I was never taken in by his charm because I knew what he was like.

"He was always on the telephone to different women, taking them to lunch and dinner at the Ritz. He had so many girlfriends that I was not tempted to become one of them."

Of all the actors who played Bond, Sean Connery was the closest to Fleming, Lady Ridsdale said. "Fleming was very handsome and enjoyed all the fine things in life — he even drank Martinis shaken not stirred — but there was a toughness and hardness about him which Connery had."

While working with Fleming, she took part in one of the war's most ingenious operations: The Man Who Never Was. The body of a civilian dressed as a Royal Navy officer was placed in the sea carrying fake secret papers indicating that an Allied invasion of Sicily was unlikely.

Lady Ridsdale wrote the love letters from an imaginary girlfriend that were planted on the body. The Germans picked up the bogus intelligence when the body was washed ashore in Spain in 1943. The operation may have saved thousands of lives when the Allies invaded Sicily that year.

She left her post when, at the age of 20, she married Sir Julian, nephew of the former Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin. They met on a tennis court at Hurlingham shortly after Sir Julian had fled Japan to avoid arrest for spying.

They married in 1942 and their daughter Penny was born at their family home in The Boltons during an air raid. Sir Julian spent 38 years as MP for Harwich, Essex, and Lady Ridsdale, once chairman of Conservative MPs' Wives, was made a

Dame of the British Empire in 1991 for political services.

While giving evidence, she said she was able to kick her assailant hard because she was wearing a "good pair of solid high heels". The shoes, black mock-crocodile leather, were bought for her by a friend from Marks & Spencer.

"It was my first reaction to kick him and I'm glad I had the right shoes on. Good old Marks & Sparks! I have good muscles in my legs — I used to do ballet as a girl — so I managed to give him quite a kick and he doubled up in pain."

The couple say that they are not fearful of another mugging. "We have lived through bombings during the war and we had an IRA bomb up the road last year, so we're not frightened by street robbers."



Lady Ridsdale and Sir Julian. They were outside their Kensington home when she fought off two robbers who tried to steal her jewellery

EVEN MORE THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR.

SAVE £3
Spring Bed Green Stripe
Was £27.99 Now £24.99

SAVE £1
HOMEBASE Garden Timbercane 5 litres
Choice of colours
Was £6.99 Now £5.99

SAVE £2
HOMEBASE Modena DIY Barbecue with Warming Rack
Was £19.99 Now £17.99

SAVE £10
BLACK & DECKER GL565 Electric Trimmer 25cm (10") Cutting Width
Was £29.99 Now £29.99

SAVE £5
PLYSU Water Butt 120 litres
Was £19.99 Now £14.99

SAVE £6
WILKINSON SWORD V2000 Large Bypass Pruner
Was £19.99 Now £13.99

SAVE £1
HOMEBASE Premium Bark Chips 80 litres
Was £8.99 Now £5.99

SAVE £3
HOZELOCK Killaspray 2 pint Pressure Sprayer
Was £9.99 Now £8.99

SAVE £11.99
Introductory Offer
HOMEBASE Outdoor Tap Kit
Will be £13.49 on 4-6-97

SAVE £20
FLYMO RE300 Rotary Lawn Mower with Rear Roller 30cm (12") Cutting Width
Was £99.99 Now £79.99

SAVE £3
BLACK & DECKER Dustbuster HC410N
Was £22.99 Now £19.99

SAVE £3
CHEVIOT Outdoor Rotary Ainer
Was £48.99 Now £43.99

SAVE £5
POLYCELL Patio & Path Cleaner 5 litres
Was £7.99 Now £6.99

SAVE £13.50
MINSTER SA Pine 15-Pane Glazed Door 78" x 30"
Was £44.99 £34.99 Now £31.49

SAVE £5
BELDRAY Gazelle 3 Tread Step Ladder
Was £28.99 Now £15.99

SAVE £10
BOSCH Sander PDA120E
Was £59.95 Now £49.95

SAVE £3
EARLEX Warrior Wallpaper Stripper SS50
Was £27.99 Now £24.99

SAVE £30
TRITON Ivory 9.5kw Electric Shower
Was £107 Now £77

HOMEBASE

SAINSBURY'S HOUSE & GARDEN CENTRES

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM-8PM • FRIDAY 8AM-9PM • SATURDAY 8AM-8PM • SUNDAY 10AM-4PM*

*Holidays not included. Garden products not available at Bury St Edmunds store. All sizes are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability. Products and offers may vary in Northern Ireland and Eire. *Stores in Scotland open Sunday 9am-6pm. Opening times may vary. Please call 0445 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store.

Q: Did you know you could be paying up to 61%* too much to your building society for your Home Insurance?

A: No, I feel let down.

Pay the right price call 0800 444 777 or visit your nearest AA shop.

AA Home Insurance

It costs less than you think

AA Insurance with reduced up to £250 if your mortgage provider charges you to transfer your policy to us. Source: AA British Insurance Premium Index, July 1996. Registered Office: Inland House, Princes Road, Basingstoke, Hants GU24 0NY. Registered No. 2114210 (England). Subject to underwriting. Specialist policies are available on request. Automobile Association Insurance Services Ltd is an independent intermediary governed by the AA code of conduct. To help us continuously improve customer service, calls may be monitored or recorded.

Queen reunites survivors of Aberfan disaster

THE Queen yesterday visited Aberfan, the small Welsh village whose name forever occupies a grieving corner of the nation's memory, and met survivors of the disaster of more than 30 years ago.

On October 21, 1966, a man-made mountain of coal slurry slipped in the heavy rain and buried a school, taking the lives of 116 children and 28 adults. The world in which such a disaster could happen may seem remote to future generations. These days in the region, white-gloved workers assemble television sets, the valleys are green again, and only one deep-mine colliery remains.

The presence of the Queen, who was visiting South Wales, brought together the bereaved and the survivors for the first time in more than 30 years. Eighty people were there to shake hands with the Queen and she made a point of speaking to every one, including 12 survivors who had been

**Alan Hamilton
sees the first
reunion of
those who
lived through
the tragedy
of October 1966**

children at the time, and four of their former teachers.

It was the Queen's third visit to Aberfan: she was on the scene eight days after the tragedy, and returned in 1973. Yesterday's meeting took place in the village community centre. Earlier, the Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, had visited the site of the school, now a tranquil memorial garden,

where she planted a tree of remembrance.

As though in memory of the original event, the sky threatened, but the forecast heavy rain, of the kind that caused the disastrous landslide, held off. The Queen, in a plum-coloured woollen coat and accompanied by Ron Davies, the new Welsh Secretary, on his first ceremonial outing since Labour's general election victory, was cheered on her walkabout by a new generation of Aberfan schoolchildren who now live in a better world without coal tips.

Yesterday's gathering was organised by Cliff Minett, chairman of the Aberfan Memorial Committee, who lost a son and daughter in the disaster. "The Queen asked to meet survivors and bereaved people. Some were in hospital when the Queen first came here, and others were just too upset to meet her."

Howell Williams, now 56, was a PE teacher at the school

in 1966. He survived while children around him perished. "I don't think anyone has known how to cope with what happened. There was no counselling or anything like that; various individuals or groups have gone their own way. I have never been able to face some of the parents: I woke up

this morning and was not looking forward to it."

Mr Williams recalled the foggy morning when he saw the coal tip sliding towards his school. "Miraculously, I survived unhurt, yet four children by my side died instantly."

Gaynor Madgwick and Ja-

nett Smart, both now 39, stood together to meet the Queen. They had been eight-year old classmates in 1966. One was pulled from the slurry by a grandfather, the other climbed to safety through the school roof.

"I was completely submerged; I suffered a broken femur and crushed hand, but I was conscious throughout," Mrs Madgwick said. Her schoolmate recalled the rumble that sounded like an express train, clouds of steam and smoke, and an avalanche of slurry slamming through the school wall.

It was an unhappy anniversary in a year of fonder memories for the Queen, who will have been married for 50

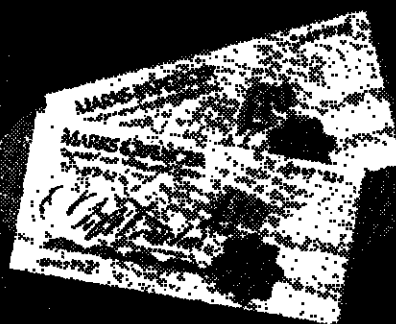
years on November 20. While in South Wales yesterday she also visited the Royal Mint at Llantrisant, where she and the Duke of Edinburgh struck proof copies of a commemorative crown bearing both their heads, the first British coin of modern times to bear anything other than the monarch's head alone. The crown will have a face value of £5, but collectors can have a gold proof edition for £645, or a silver version at £250.

When the Aberfan tragedy happened, she had been married for only 19 years and had resigned for a mere 14. In the Queen's golden anniversary year, she is custodian of a remarkably long segment of the nation's memory.



The Queen visiting Aberfan yesterday with, right, Ron Davies, the new Welsh Secretary. It was her third visit since the disaster

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER GIRO CURRENT ACCOUNT £20 CHALLENGE



£20 to spend at Marks & Spencer



Bank the way you want when you want

Open a Current Account now and you'll get £20 worth of Marks & Spencer gift vouchers

It's a simple challenge. You can get £20 worth of Marks & Spencer gift vouchers when you open an Alliance & Leicester Giro Current Account with £200* before 15 August 1997. We'll send your vouchers to you - and you'll enjoy all these benefits:

Track down your Marks & Spencer vouchers now

- Bank at almost 20,000 Post Offices.
- Bank by telephone, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Withdraw cash at almost 12,000 LINK machines.
- Debit, cash and cheque guarantee cards. (Subject to status.)
- Bank by post.

To qualify for your £20 worth of vouchers, request your application form today. Call us free, 24 hours a day, or complete and return the coupon below.

Call FREE today 0800 41 22 14 Quote ref: S35

Track down an Alliance & Leicester Giro Current Account today

Please send me full details of the Alliance & Leicester Giro Current Account, including information on how to open an account, an application form and my claim form for £20 worth of Marks & Spencer gift vouchers. Ref: S35

Send to: Alliance & Leicester Giro, FREEPOST CV2217, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 9BR. (No stamp needed.) Please do not send any money with this coupon.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other (Please state)	Initials	Surname
Address		
Postcode		
Home Tel. No. (including STD code)		
Date of Birth / /	Signature	

From time to time we may send you information on Alliance & Leicester Giro products and services. If you do not wish to receive further communications from Alliance & Leicester Giro, please tick here. ☐

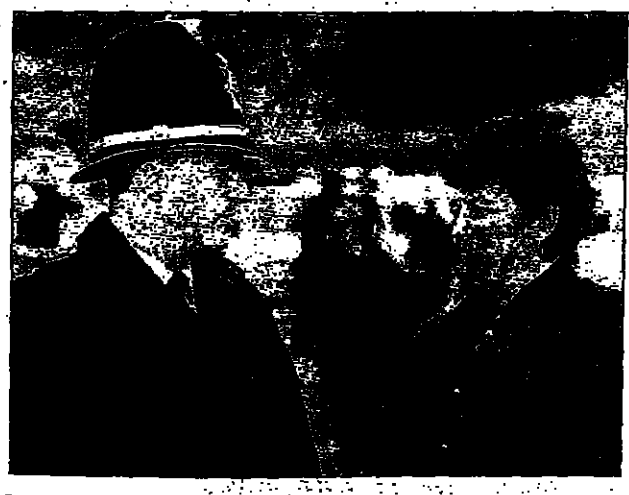
High Street banking at your local Post Office



* Offer is valid only when you phone the above number or send off this coupon for an application form. Application forms acquired from Post Offices are not valid for this offer. Once your account has been opened and funded with at least £200, return the claim form before 15 August 1997, and £20 worth of Marks & Spencer gift vouchers will be sent to you. Only one payment of £20 worth of vouchers will be made per person. Joint accounts will only qualify for one payment of vouchers. Applicants for an Alliance & Leicester Giro Current Account must be aged 15 or over. All applications are subject to status. Delta Card and £50 cheque guarantee card are only available if aged 18 or over (subject to status). For security and training purposes telephone calls between you and the Alliance & Leicester or its subsidiaries may be recorded or monitored. Alliance & Leicester Giro is the business name of Alliance & Leicester plc, Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EQ, at which address service of all documents may be made and will be effective. Company No: 3263713. Registered in England. Authorised as a bank pursuant to the Banking Act 1987. Member of the British Bankers' Association.



Susan Robertson being carried from the scene of the disaster and, below, at yesterday's reunion

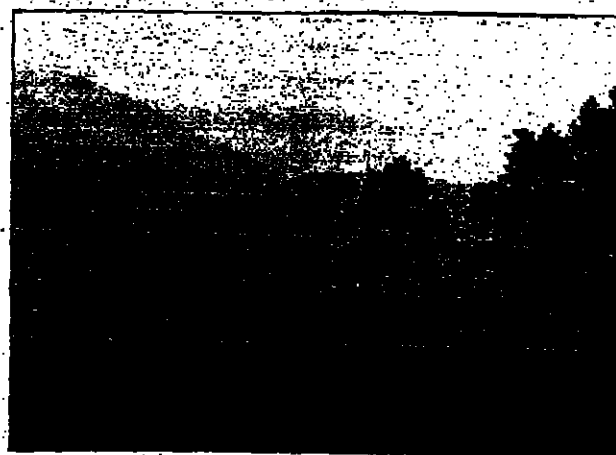


Self-assessment made easy

This year sees the most radical change in our tax system for many years - the introduction of self-assessment tax returns. This new system puts the onus on you - the taxpayer - to give the Inland Revenue accurate information. If you don't, or if you're late with your Return, you may face penalties of up to £100. But don't panic, help is now at hand. Published by Which?, TaxCalc 1996-97 is a software package (including both CD ROM and disk versions) which will complete the new self-assessment tax return for you, helping you to avoid expensive mistakes and calculate exactly how much tax you should be paying. Simply enter your personal details on-screen and TaxCalc does the rest! This money saving package shows how much the Inland Revenue may owe you • calculates the minimum you're obliged to pay and includes • the new self-assessment tax return and accompanying schedule sheet • extensive help files • comprehensive self-employment coverage • a detailed tax summary • how to claim a tax rebate • up to 50 tax saving tips to help you make the most of your money. You can print out your own Inland Revenue-approved self-assessment tax return, which you can submit to the Revenue in place of its own Return form. It really couldn't be easier! TaxCalc 1996-97 costs just £29.99 (P&P are free). To order send your name and address and your payment (cheque, made payable to Which? Ltd or your credit card number with expiry date) to: Which?, PO Box 89, Dept TP1, Hertford SG14 1TB. Orders are normally despatched within 14 days of receipt. Full refund if not satisfied. Please note, to run TaxCalc you need - IBM PC 486 and 100% compatibles, Windows™ 3.1, 95 and NT, VGA graphics and 8mb RAM.

Conservationists fear decision to stop the culling of predators could put birds' future at risk again

RSPB takes a chance with capercaillie's survival



BY MAGNUS LINKLATER

A DECISION by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to end the shooting of crows and foxes on its largest Scottish estate has placed a question-mark over the future of one of Britain's rarest birds.

The capercaillie, a magnificent, grouse-like bird the size of a small turkey, known in Scotland as the cock of the wood, has suffered a catastrophic decline in numbers over the past 20 years. From an estimated UK population of 20,000, it has fallen to less than 2,000. So grave is the risk to its future that the Rio Conference on Bio-Diversity in 1992 placed it on its list of the 117 most threatened species in the world.

Now, however, the RSPB, which has made remarkable progress since then in halting the decline, has decided that it must, for the time being, put an end to the control of predators such as crows and foxes in the forest and heather of its Abernethy reserve. For the next year or two it will allow their numbers to find a natural level.

No one yet knows what effect this will have on the capercaillie, but most experts are privately appalled at the decision. They point out that it is too early in the regeneration programme to take any risks with such an endangered species.

No one doubts the success of the RSPB's efforts so far. Charged with restoring capercaillie numbers to 20,000 in Britain by the year 2010, the society has introduced an

ambitious programme on the stunning 30,000-acre mountain estate it has owned for the past ten years. In partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, the conservation body, it has instituted a combined programme to halt and reverse the capercaillie's decline: deer culling to encourage vegetation, dismantling of fences that account for the deaths of many birds, and the control of predators, including crows and foxes.

"We now believe that the capercaillie population is stable or increasing," says Sankey, the society's head of policy in Scotland, this week told a small gathering of landowners and experts at Abernethy, a few miles south of Grantown-on-Spey in Highland.

The society argues that it needs, for scientific reasons, to establish whether controlling predators makes any difference. It will stop shooting crows and foxes for the next year or two, assess the effect and then decide whether to begin controlling them again. "On balance we believe it is right to go this way at present," Mr Sankey said.

"All our practices are based on sound science. Our membership trusts us because we can demonstrate that whatever we do is based on scientific research. We owe it to them to show we have gone through all the hoops. But we will keep a close eye on what happens and review it each year."

Underlying the argument is the society's responsibility to



The RSPB has had remarkable success in reversing the decline of the capercaillie in Abernethy Forest, above left, by culling deer and predators and removing fencing

its members, now almost a million, who take a dim view of killing one species of bird to protect another.

It is aware that later this year it faces the biggest crisis in its history, when the results of a five-year experiment at Langholm in Dumfries and Galloway are published. This is expected to show that allowing predators of all

kinds, including birds of prey, to flourish uncontrolled leads to the virtual elimination of game birds. The society will need to explain how a healthy grouse population can be maintained without controlling predators such as hen harriers and peregrines.

The Abernethy experiment is the other side of the coin: faced with the real possibility

that the capercaillie might become extinct, the society reduced the deer population by two-thirds, allowing the heather and insect life, on which the capercaillie and the smaller woodland grouse depend, to thrive. It pulled down mile upon mile of forest fence after finding that large numbers of birds were being wiped out by colliding with it.

And it took the difficult decision to begin shooting the various species of crow which were robbing the capercaillies' nests.

The result is one of the most successful species regeneration programmes in Britain. By 1993, the population of capercaillie and woodland grouse at Abernethy had stabilised. Last year saw a

record increase in numbers. "Abernethy is bucking the national trend," a spokesman for the society said. The Forestry Commission now accepts the finding on fencing and has agreed to co-operate as far as possible in cutting down its use. Landowners, too, have agreed to do all they can to help.

All, however, are concerned at the latest decision. Although reluctant to interfere in the society's affairs, the Game Conservancy said it thought that to vary the experiment at this stage was risky. A spokesman said: "Given the national decline, we believe that habitat management and predation control both have a part to play in restoring numbers."

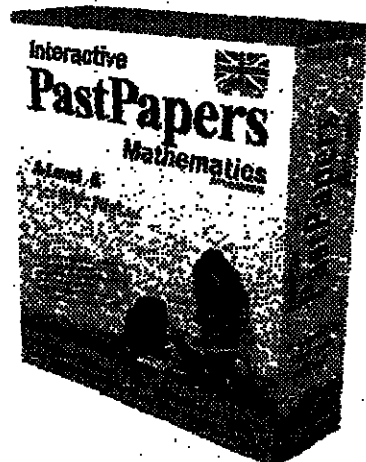
THE TIMES

THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE NINETIES
CAN YOU ALWAYS GET YOUR COPY?

Dear Newspaper, please deliver/save me a copy of THE TIMES

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Problem.
You're one of 70,000
A-Level Maths candidates.
You have only four
nail-biting study
weeks left.



Solution.

Interactive PastPapers™ on CD-ROM gives unlimited practice of core A-Level topics.

Based on twelve years' successful academic research involving thousands of students at Edinburgh's Heriot-Watt University, you too can improve results using this innovative software.

To ensure you get started right away, there are instructional videos on the CD. Use HELP MODE (step-by-step hints when you need them), or EXAM MODE (closer to the real thing). Results will improve. **No problem!**

Available from: PC WORLD, Selfridge, Fenwick and selected WH Smiths, Dillons, HMV, Virgin & BITE stores

£39.99 (includes 0800 40 20 40 for your nearest stockist or for further information)
LAKERS SOFTWARE, GLASGOW G2 8LE, UK. Tel: 0141 201 2011 Fax: 0141 201 2012
Email: lakers@lakers.co.uk or visit our web site at www.lakers.co.uk

Stage set for clash on runway evictions

By RUSSELL JENKINS

PROTESTERS were drawing up battle lines last night after a judge gave bailiffs permission to clear the site of Manchester airport's proposed second runway.

The protesters immediately appealed against possession orders granted to the airport and developers, but District Judge David Shannon, at the High Court in Manchester, removed the last obstacle to legal eviction when he refused the activists a stay of execution.

The stage is now set for a rerun of the Newbury bypass and A30 protests, where police and sheriff's officers spent days or weeks evicting demonstrators entrenched in tree-houses and a maze of underground tunnels.

One activist last night predicted the Battle for Boffin Valley would make the A30 eviction at Exeter look like a "minor skirmish".

About 50 people — half the estimated ranks of die-hard campaigners — are already stocking tunnels running beneath their tree-top encampment at the end of the runway near Syke, Cheshire. They claim to have enough water and food for a four-week siege at the five main campsites.

A chain fence now surrounds the runway site, complete with arc lights and temporary offices. Security forces are expected to begin the eviction within two to three weeks. They could act within days, before the protesters dig themselves in deeper.

Prisoners kick drug habit with herbal tea

By STEWART TENOER

INMATES at an open prison are being offered nightcaps of herbal tea to help them to give up using cannabis.

Teas on offer at Leyhill open prison near Bristol include chamomile, red clover blossom and vervain. Prison officials and drug workers believe the infusions will ease the anxiety of giving up drugs. Two welfare workers are being trained in car acupuncture.

The tea was introduced after tests in the prison showed that one in five of the prisoners smoked cannabis. Phil Mortimore, deputy governor, said the scheme was working well: "I know of two prisoners at least who have given up cannabis in favour of herbal tea — or at least that's what they tell us." Officials would take any reasonable action to reduce drug use, he said.

One prisoner said: "The herbal tea just helps me relax, especially last thing at night. Whereas, before, I would be reaching for a joint, now it's tea for me."

The Prison Service said that early indications from Leyhill suggested that the herbal tea helped in weaning prisoners off cannabis.

The top-security prison Whitmore, in Cambridgeshire, where a number of inmates have drug problems, has opened a drug rehabilitation unit. The Prison Service said that many prisoners offered inmates help with such problems.

Gatwick to Miami
Daily from

£99
Plus taxes, one way

CALL
01293 789000
YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

LAKERS
In a Class of its own

Capacity limited. Rights must be taken by June 30th 1997. Special conditions apply. Subject to government approval.

Alliance & Leicester Shareholders

Don't let the taxman get a share of your shares.

If you have decided to hold onto your new Alliance & Leicester shares you need to make sure the taxman doesn't get his hands on your money. Unless you take action by 30th May you may be subject to tax — you may have to pay tax on the dividends and have a tax bill if you sell your shares.

However there is an easy way to keep your Alliance & Leicester shares and pay no tax at all.

By putting your shares into a Personal Equity Plan with M&G, the UK's largest general PEP provider, you can receive the dividends free of tax and sell your shares whenever you wish tax free.

You can also put other windfall building society or insurance company shares into The M&G Windfall PEP.

So to keep all your shares and not pay a penny in tax, return the coupon or call us now on 0990 600 631.

To: The M&G Group, Bristol BS38 7ET. Please send me details of the new M&G Windfall PEP.

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL. You should contact your independent financial adviser (if you have one) before investing. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up. The value to you of the tax benefits will depend on your own circumstances. The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future.

INITIALS	SURNAME
ADDRESS	
POSTCODE	
LC-DCAS	

M&G does not offer investment advice or other any recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group.

Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited. (Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.)

We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated M&G Companies.

Tick this box ☐ if you would prefer not to receive the information.

M&G
WINDFALL
PEP

The M&G Windfall PEP

Adams intends to use the House, but not his seat

By NICHOLAS WATT AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

SINN FEIN is seeking to reap the rewards of victory at the polls with its two new MPs exploiting every facility at the House of Commons short of taking their seats in the chamber.

In a significant softening of the traditional abstentionist policy, Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness want to set up offices at Westminster with telephone and fax lines. They also hope to cash in on the generous travelling and secretarial expenses for MPs. The members for West Belfast and Mid-Ulster intend to make their first trip to Westminster by the end of the month to stage a high-profile press conference in which they will demand a place at the all-party talks at Stormont.

Mr Adams, who will discuss his plans with Sinn Fein's "British desk" this weekend, said: "We will go to the House of Commons. We will use the facilities afforded to us and will utilise them to the best advantage of those who elected us."

However, the Sinn Fein president, who has earned up to £200,000 from his autobiography, is unlikely to succeed in filling his party's coffers with taxpayers' money. The rules for the House of Commons, which are set out in Erskine May, say that MPs cannot collect any allowances or sala-

Sinn Fein will try to repeat its two-seat success in last week's general election by concentrating on a small number of constituencies in the Irish election expected on June 6. It will field 15 candidates, compared with the 41 it put forward in 1992. Then the party won 1.61 per cent of the vote and lost deposits in all but two seats. Gerry Adams said yesterday that the party was likely to take Cavan/Monaghan and Louth, two border constituencies in which republican sentiments are strong. He added that Sinn Fein would occupy any seats it won in the Irish Parliament.

ry unless they swear the oath of allegiance to the Queen.

Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness, who refuse to swear the oath, will also struggle to secure offices at Westminster. The Liberal Democrats, who are in charge of allocating offices to the smaller parties, said that they would be making no great effort to help.

The refusal of the two MPs to swear the oath of allegiance means that they will each forgo a package of more than £100,000. MPs are paid a salary of £43,860; this is

supplemented by an allowance of £47,568 to cover the costs of running an office and a further £12,287 to run two homes.

Sinn Fein's new position, which Mr Adams describes as "active abstentionism", marks a significant watering down of the party's abstentionist policy, which has been a central plank of Irish republicanism this century. Some observers in Northern Ireland believe that the new policy shows that Sinn Fein is inching towards embracing constitutional politics. However, Unionists say that Sinn Fein is once again refining its old policy of "the armalite and the ballot box" as it advances republicanism by increasingly sophisticated methods.

Sinn Fein's plans for Westminster cut no ice yesterday with Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary. Speaking during a tour of Ballymena, Co Antrim, Dr Mowlam said that Sinn Fein would show that it was still committed to the "ballot box and violence" if the party's new MPs went to Westminster before an IRA ceasefire.

She added: "I think in that sense they are trying to have their cake and eat it. That is playing games with democracy. I am not interested in people who play games with democracy."



Love duet: Pavarotti shows off his new partner, Nicoletta Mantovani, who has persuaded the tenor to lose weight by cutting his pasta intake

Pavarotti flies in to serenade London on a lighter note

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI arrived in London yesterday for his first recital at the Royal Opera House for 18 years (Carol Midgley writes). The celebrated tenor marked the occasion by being photographed publicly

for the first time with the young lover who forced him to shed three stone by limiting his pasta intake. His weight is now estimated at 21 stone. Nicoletta Mantovani, 27, who is 34 years his junior, gazed adoringly at

the singer as they stood together in the sunshine outside the Hyde Park Hotel. Last year Pavarotti left his wife Adua for Miss Mantovani, his personal assistant, after 30 years of marriage. Under Italian divorce law

the couple cannot marry for another year. Pavarotti's recital on Sunday will include excerpts from Puccini's *Tosca* as well as works by Donizetti and Bizet. All the tickets, costing up to £140, are sold.

Dixons DEAL 97

SAVE UP TO £70 ON TOP BRAND TVs

PLUS UP TO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*



GRUNDIG

T55730
21" TELETEXT TV
• 61cm visible screen size.
• Teletext for easy access to information services.

PLUS GV6001
LONG PLAY VIDEO WITH VIDEOPLUS
Long play for increased recording and playback time of tapes.
Total Separate Selling Price £429.98

Dixons Deal 97
£359.99



MATSUI 14VT
14" TELETEXT TV WITH REMOTE CONTROL
• 34cm visible screen size.
• On-screen display.
• Remote control.
Was £149.99

£139.99



MATSUI TVR161
14" COMBINED TV AND VIDEO
• 34cm visible screen size.
• On-screen display.
In-store Price £289.99

£289.99



Bigger and Better than Ever!

PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN

One visit, and you'll find out why.

- ✓ **GREAT RANGE**
Choose from all the leading brands.
- ✓ **LATEST TECHNOLOGY**
It's new, we've got it. Come and see it now.
- ✓ **ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST**
Straightforward help with the latest features.
- ✓ **QUALITY GUARANTEED**
All products are backed by a 3-year warranty. Britain's biggest service and repair network.

LARGE SCREEN TVs SAVE UP TO £20

MATSUI 2096R
20" REMOTE CONTROL TV
• 48cm visible screen size.
• On-screen display.
• Cabinet available.
Was £179.99

£169.99

GRUNDIG GT2105
21" NICAM STEREO TV WITH FASTTEXT
• 51cm visible screen size.
• Fasttext for easy access to all Teletext services.
• On-screen display.
• Complete with stand.
Was £229.99

£229.99

HITACHI 2166
21" NICAM STEREO TV WITH FASTTEXT
• 51cm visible screen size.
• Superb NICAM stereo sound.
• In-store Price £329.99

£329.99

SONY KV25F2
25" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC SURROUND SOUND TV
• 58cm visible screen size.
• 12 picture presets automatically adjust colour and contrast according to the brightness of the room for improved viewing.
Was £599.99

£649.99

TOSHIBA 2857
28" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC SURROUND SOUND TV
• 66cm visible screen size.
• Fasttext for easy access to all Teletext services.
• Digital picture processing.
• Real speakers for superb Surround Sound.
Was £899.99

£849.99

IF YOU CAN'T GET TO YOUR NEAREST DIXONS - JUST ORDER BY PHONE
0500 50 40 30
Same as 0500 50 40 30
Delivery charges from £2.50
PART OF DSG RETAIL LIMITED

Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

INTEREST FREE OPTION
Subject to credit assessment. Deposit 10% on hire over £1000. Verbal quotation available on request from Dept. FCNAC, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. (Applicants must be 18 or over, 7+ Northern Ireland)

Three Navy missile systems are found to be unreliable

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Navy has been forced to carry out comprehensive checks on three of its principal missile systems because of concern over their effectiveness. Although there is no technical fault common to the three systems, there are problems with reliability.

The missiles are the Sea Dart, a ship-to-air medium-range weapon carried in aircraft carriers and destroyers; the Sea Wolf, a high-speed defence anti-missile and anti-aircraft system, fitted in most frigates; and the Sea Skua, an anti-surface ship missile, carried by the Lynx helicopter.

The embarrassment for the Royal Navy is that because of budget cuts and delays in maintenance programmes, all three systems are having to be checked at the same time. Missiles sold as part of warship sales to countries such as Brazil and South Korea are also having to be investigated. The Ministry of Defence re-

cently sold Brazil four Type 22 Broadsword-class frigates armed with Sea Wolf missiles, which will have to be refurbished.

However, the Navy said it was confident that the missiles on board warships on operations at sea were working and would function "if there is a war tomorrow".

The Navy spokesman said: "The fact that all three systems are being refurbished at the same time is due to unavoidable consequences." All missile systems had to be maintained to "extremely high standards of safety and serviceability".

The spokesman said that missiles were all test-fired before they were fitted in warships for operational duties. "Ships now at sea all have full war loads of missiles," he said.

The Sea Dart is the oldest of the weapons, designed in the 1960s and introduced into

service in the 1970s. It has a range of 25 miles and was used successfully in the Falklands War in 1982. Royal Navy sources said that the Sea Dart was at the end of its operational effectiveness but had to be kept going until well into the next century.

The Sea Wolf, introduced in the 1980s, has been updated. There is a faster vertically launched version fitted to the Navy's Type 23 frigates which will be unaffected by the refurbishment programme. However, there was a problem with the older model of the close-range weapon.

The Sea Skua, which was developed just in time for the Falklands War and was launched against Iraqi naval vessels in the 1991 Gulf War, has a range of more than 12 miles. It was said to have only minor problems.

The Navy would not say how much the refurbishment programme will cost.

Now I can really get out and enjoy myself

Freedom and independence are always round the corner with a Sunrise Scooter.

Each and every model is safe, comfortable and easy to ride, whether you're at home, in town or in the country.

Every one of our Scooters is 100% designed and built in Britain and has been exhaustively researched and tested by our experts.

And did you know, you can even travel on the road without having to worry about a licence or road tax.

FOR A COPY OF OUR COLOUR BROCHURE AND FREE VIDEO, CALL THE NUMBER BELOW OR FILL IN AND POST THE COUPON.

CALL FREE 0800 16 33 65

SUNRISE MOBILITY
IMPROVING PEOPLE'S LIVES

Please send me my FREE Sunrise Scooter colour brochure plus video.

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, etc) _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Send to: Sunrise Mobility, FREEPOST DD348, Brierley Hill, DY5 1BR.

**WE ARE WITHHOLDING A VOLKSWAGEN
'SURPRISINGLY ORDINARY PRICES' ADVERTISEMENT
UNTIL WE RECEIVE CONFIRMATION THAT
A VOLKSWAGEN POLO L DOES INDEED COST £7990.**

مكتبة من الأصل

...style ha
n a wind turne
an unperfec
e recipe for th
to be let us bu
gger or work
snigger, mis
s may be due to
days the late-
out needn't be
with either his
s.
my corners-
that (BBC2)
hitting experi
ed a viewer
shed more
it actually
ed reflector
illuminate
her sitting
n get one
: four of

ing catalyst
for with
free of
her No
bund.

7.3 Structure

rae in
inder

350
the

SE:

y

•

—

defeated at their labour



Jennifer Murray and the single-engine piston that carries her hopes

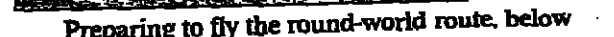
BY MICHAEL EVANS

IT WAS a routine problem for an executive wife. Jennifer Murray's husband had treated himself to an expensive new toy, but did not have the time to use it. So she decided to have a go herself. It was a helicopter.

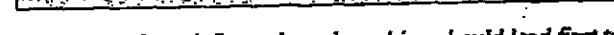
Today the 56-year-old grandmother sets off to try to become the first woman to fly a small helicopter around the world. She admits: "It's crazy."

My Murray plans to stop in 26 countries in 97 days, risking desert sandstorms as tropical monsoons on the 24,000-mile route. With her 24,000-mile, 200-hp. Cessna 441, Quentin Smith, 32, took the Royal Navy survival course in which they went through a simulated crash-landing in water.

making his water. About \$100,000 American-built, four-seater Robinson R44, two seats have made way for an extra 70-gallon fuel tank which will slow them down but ensure that they can go up to 800 miles on a single stretch. They are also carrying a dinghy with an insulated floor and roof, and will fly in thermal-lined clothes and immersion blankets.



Preparing to fly the round-world route, below



capacity craft and flown by men. An American, backed by the Bell helicopter company, flew the world in 17 days.

Today's take-off from Durdent Court, at the end of Denham airfield in Buckinghamshire, Ontario, Canada, will take the plane to London, Singapore, Brunei, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tokyo, the Baring Straits

Alaska, Vancouver, Los Angeles, across the United States to New York, then home via Iceland.

Mrs Murray has two grand-daughters, aged three and one, living in Taiwan with her son, Justin, and his Chinese wife. One of her concerns is that, if she is delayed on any part of her trip, she will face problems in certain countries which have agreed landing rights at specified times: "We may find we arrive late and the airport is closed to us."

However, the weather will be their greatest challenge: "We'll be flying over deserts when there could be sandstorms and, in the Philippines and Malaysia, it will be the monsoon period."

Mr Smith, an experienced pilot, pointed out that the helicopter had no air conditioning: "When we're flying over deserts, it will be like sitting in a greenhouse."

The trip is costing hundreds of thousands of pounds and they have succeeded in meeting about half the cost through sponsorship from companies such as BP and Cathay Pacific. They hope to raise about £500,000 for Save the Children.

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

SEVEN children failed yesterday in their attempt to take their council to court over a broken promise to build a leisure centre and swimming pool. Mr Justice Latham ruled that the children, from Colliers Wood, south-west London, could not seek judicial review as their case was "bound to fail".

The children, aged 3 to 14, had argued in the High Court that Merton council had made an unlawful decision to allow Sainsbury's to drop its original promise to build a leisure development for the community when it opened a new store.

Instead the deal, reached in April 1986, was replaced by a plan for a drive-through McDonald's and bingo hall on the site intended for the pool. Richard Gordon, QC, for the children, said that, after the store opened in February 1989, the swimming pool failed to materialise and the supermarket chiefs admitted they had

In 1993 Merton council agreed to change the terms of the agreement, allowing Sainsbury to put money into other projects and no longer requiring it to build the pool. Local people had not been allowed to attend the meeting.

Mr Gordon said. Three years later, parents and children heard that planning permission had been granted for a bingo hall and drive-through McDonald's on the site.

Mr Gordon said that the council had created a "hodge-podge" of planning rules.

Rejecting the application, Mr Justice Latham said that, although there was an "arguable case" on planning law, the council had acted legally when it made a policy change in 1993 and allowed Sainsbury to drop the leisure centre.

Outside court, John Barker, father of Harry, 7, and Kate, 4, said that these boys would be "very disappointed" if the centre was not built.

"Why enter into an agreement if it's unenforceable? If the residents of Colliers Wood had known about this ten years ago, this supermarket wouldn't be up. All we've been offered is fast food and gambling. That's what they see as our children's future." Harry said: "It's disgusting. They promised us a swimming pool ten years ago and now they're changing their minds."

Danny Connellan, chairman of Merton planning committee, said the council had tried to get the best deal for the community after realising the original plan had been too badly drafted to enforce.

[illegible]

Defeated Tories rent their homes to Labour MPs

By POLLY NEWTON AND STEPHEN FARRELL

NEW MPs have begun combing the streets of Westminster and beyond for affordable homes convenient for Parliament. One even plans to take to the water.

Candy Atherton, who beat Sebastian Coo to win the Falmouth and Camborne seat for Labour, hopes to buy a narrowboat today. She will then have to find a convenient mooring. Ms Atherton, a former mayor of Islington, lived on a narrowboat moored in the borough for six years until 1992.

"It was my little bit of sanity in the city," she said. "There is something about being near water... Being the MP for Falmouth and Camborne, I'm a bit more used to it."

Her colleagues seeking homes on dry land have found one potentially fruitful source: defeated Tory MPs with properties to let. Hazel Bears, Labour MP for Salford, began her search at Dolphin Square, the riverside development where annual rents range from £5,000 to £20,000 and there is a 12-month waiting list.

She had a tip-off from a friend in the Commons that several Conservatives were moving out. "I bumped into him in the lift. It was pure

chance. I've told lots of others," she said. The family coffers needed to be raided for the deposit. "I have had to borrow it from my mum."

Kali Mountford, the new Labour member for Colne Valley, said that she would be staying with friends at least until the arrival of her salary cheque at the end of the month. "I was unemployed for a year before the election and I've got no money."

Standing next to her, Dari Taylor, Labour's new MP for Stockton South, immediately offered either a bed or floor-space in the flat in Pimlico that she hopes to take over from the former Labour MP Jack Thompson.

Estate agents report a stream of calls from outgoing Tory MPs anxious to sell or to let. Some have already placed £25 classified advertisements in Parliament's in-house magazine.

Teresa Gorman, despite holding her Billericay seat, has let her £750,000 three-bedroom house in Lord North Street for £650 a week since the election.

Jonathan Male, of the Kennington agents, Daniel Smith, received the first of three calls from Tory MPs wanting to sell their flats for

day after the election. Adrian Owen, manager of Hamptons International in Pimlico, took calls from several Tories, including one former Cabinet minister, wanting to let.

He said: "With the market rising, most Tory MPs with places in Westminster are hanging on to them as investments. They can get £200 a week for a one-bedroom studio flat, and up to £2,000 a week for a large Westminster house."

"We have had a few inquiries from new Labour MPs on the sales side, but generally it is their press secretaries and personal assistants looking for lettings without giving names. They don't particularly want to be seen buying flats for £150,000 — which is what they'll need for a nice one-bedroom pied-à-terre north of the river."

"Of course they could go south for about £80,000 to £120,000. Kennington has some beautiful Georgian places but it's riddled with council estates — which might be more politically correct for them, of course."

Labour winners with a nostalgic bent have tried to move to County Hall, formerly the party's spiritual London home as headquarters of the Greater London Council. It has recently been converted into apartments and a hotel.

A spokesman for the management company said that there had been a rush of inquiries about letting the remaining one and two-bedroom flats since the election. However, as the new intake ruled their lack of preparation, Vicky Cotterell, of Dauntons Residential in Pimlico, said that some Conservatives had hedged their bets months ago.

"Quite a few gave two months' notice at the beginning of the year because they knew something was up. They went off to stay at their gentlemen's clubs until the election, until they saw how things turned out. Some were planning to buy places, if they won, but obviously not now," she said.



New Labour, old Humphrey: Cherie Blair with the Downing Street cat who first worked with Mrs Thatcher

Blairs keep Humphrey in the picture

By EMMA WILKINS

DOWNING STREET'S greatest political survivor took a photocall yesterday with one of the newer arrivals, to demonstrate that he will work with new Labour. The official appearance with Cherie Blair was felt to be necessary because, despite all the other vital matters that have occupied the nation over past week, one of the greatest issues of public concern has been the future of Humphrey the cat.

The champion mouser made his

debut at 10 Downing Street in 1989 during the last years of the Thatcher Government, and his food is on the Cabinet Office budget. However, concern grew that he might have to move home after reports that the new Prime Minister's wife found cats unhygienic.

"That is nonsense, as is another report that she is allergic to cats," a Downing Street spokeswoman said. "Cherie and her sister had both a cat and a dog when they were growing up, and one of the first things the children wanted to see when they moved in on

Monday was Humphrey. This is Humphrey's home and, as far as the Blairs are concerned, it will remain his home."

Humphrey, who has a fondness for chasing the ducklings in St James's Park and was recently suspected of the murder of two robins in the No 10 garden, is on a low-protein diet because of kidney problems. He disappeared in 1995 and was thought to have died, but he had taken up temporary residence at the Royal Army Medical College.

Letters, page 23

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wedgwood has change of heart on anniversary

Wedgwood has decided, after all, to produce commemorative items for the Queen's golden wedding anniversary. The change of heart came after the Stoke-on-Trent pottery company received many calls from *Times* readers who had seen yesterday's report that it would not do so.

The company said that, after an emergency board meeting, designers were working on a range of items. "We were surprised by the public reaction," a spokeswoman said.

Appeal refused

The father of the snooker player Ronnie O'Sullivan was refused leave to appeal against his conviction for murder. Ronald O'Sullivan, 43, was jailed for life in 1992 at the Old Bailey for stabbing Bruce Bryan, a driver for the Kray twins' elder brother, Charlie, in a racially motivated attack at a Chelsea nightclub.

Contempt case

The High Court granted John Morris, QC, the Attorney-General, leave to bring contempt proceedings against the London *Evening Standard* over a report that led to the trial of six alleged fugitives from Whitmoor prison being abandoned. The paper printed photographs and referred to the defendants' IRA links.

Butterfly survey

A two-year survey was launched to try to halt the decline of the pearl-bordered fritillary, one of Britain's 116 most endangered species of plants and animals. The survey, by Butterfly Conservation, aims to locate all colonies of the insect and to identify the habitats best suited for its survival.

Vaughan award

The singer Frankie Vaughan, 67, received the insignia of the CBE from the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace. He was honoured for his singing and for his work with the National Association of Boys' Clubs. He said later: "It's just wonderful. Prince Charles asked how my voice was and if I was still gargling with port."



Candy Atherton, a Labour winner, is planning to buy a narrowboat as her London pied-à-terre

Explore Egyptian Lake Nasser in Grand Victorian Style

State of the art technology, turn of the century elegance, and temples from the birth of civilisation combine to make this matchless cruise on Lake Nasser, created by the building of the Aswan Dam, from August 1977 the MS Prince Abbas.

THE SHIP

A brand new vessel in the style of an old world Victorian paddlewheeler, the magnificent MS Prince Abbas recreates the elegance of this golden era of Egyptian exploration. In the tradition of Thomas Cook's Nile Fleet, she is sumptuously stylish and fabulously functional. A pool, gym, observation room, sundeck and conservatory form fine facilities in an atmosphere of rarefied indulgence.

THE ITINERARY

- DAY 1 - Fly from Heathrow to Aswan to join MS Prince Abbas
- DAY 2 - Relax aboard as you sail to Wadi el Seboua
- DAY 3 - Visit the Valley of Lions and cruise to Kasr Ibrahim
- DAY 4 - Your first glimpse of awe-inspiring Abu Simbel temples
- DAY 5 - At leisure in Abu Simbel - surprise to sunset
- DAY 6 - Sail to the Temple of Amada, saved from a watery grave
- DAY 7 - A scenic return to Aswan via Kalabsha and Beit el Wali
- DAY 8 - Fly direct to Heathrow on a scheduled flight from Aswan OR extend your stay in Egypt with Thomas Cook's range of Red Sea resorts, Nile-hotels and well-planned excursions.

starts her inaugural season on its waters. From just £595 you could join her. Follow in the footsteps of our founder, Thomas Cook, and experience the excellence of the MS Prince Abbas as she takes superlative service and luxurious comfort to the shadows of timeless treasures.



Departure dates - Saturdays - Prices per person based on sharing in a twin cabin
1997 Aug 30, Sept 6 £595
Sept 13, 20 £595
Sept 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 £595
Dec 6, 13 £595
Dec 20, 27 £595
1998 Jan 3, 10, 17 £595
Jan 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 28, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28, Apr 4, 11 £595
Apr 18, 25 £595

All prices subject to availability. Supplements for other cabins/deck types and single supplements are available on request.

Our current Booking Agreement (a copy of which is available on request) shall apply to all bookings.

The price includes: • Scheduled non-stop flights with EgyptAir from London Heathrow to Aswan and return • All airport/air passenger taxes • Full board (with afternoon tea) on cruise • Sightseeing as outlined in itinerary - with an experienced Egyptian guide

Join the MS Prince Abbas on an 8-day cruise in an ancient world.

To book your cabin or request a brochure, complete the coupon below or telephone Thomas Cook Holidays now on 0800-882122.

We're open 6 days a week Monday to Saturday to take your call 9am to 5.30pm

Please send me information of the MS Prince Abbas, Lake Nasser and the Nile cruises.

Name Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____ Surname _____

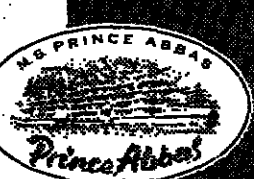
Address _____

Postcode _____

ATM 005

ATM No. 00524-ATM No. 265 - The Thomas Cook Group Limited.

Please post to: Thomas Cook Holidays, Freeport (PE1095), PO Box 300, Peterborough, PE1 5BR



8 DAY CRUISE FROM £595

NEW FOR 1997 THE MAGNIFICENT PRINCE ABBAS

BOOK NOW SIMPLY CALL 0800 882122

WE'RE OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK MONDAY TO SATURDAY TO TAKE YOUR CALL 9am-5.30pm

Thomas Cook Holidays

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS

CABLE & WIRELESS



NOW YOU CAN CALL AMERICA FOR JUST 10p PER MINUTE ON SUNDAYS.

YEE-HARR.



SUMMER SUNDAY SNIERS

For three selected Sundays this summer, you can call the States for the ridiculously low price of just 10p per minute when you talk for five minutes or more. The 1st June, the 6th July and the 24th August are the dates to remember. But of course, it's not only on selected days that you make great savings.

With Mercury SmartCall you can enjoy savings of at least 20% on all international calls every day of the year. So if you don't want to be saddled with a big bill, call Mercury now.

Mercury SmartCall

FreeCall 0500 500 366

quote ref RSTMSK

Prices and savings correct as at 1 May 1997, compared against BT's basic rate for international calls of 5 minutes or more, 6pm to 8am weekdays and any time at weekends. SmartCall is available for a quarterly fee of £5.75. All calls subject to a 3.5p connection charge. All prices inc. VAT.

Evangelical 'super church' aims to be all things to all the community

Ruth Gledhill finds that a new £2.4m worship and leisure centre reflects the growth of Britain's 'Bible belt'

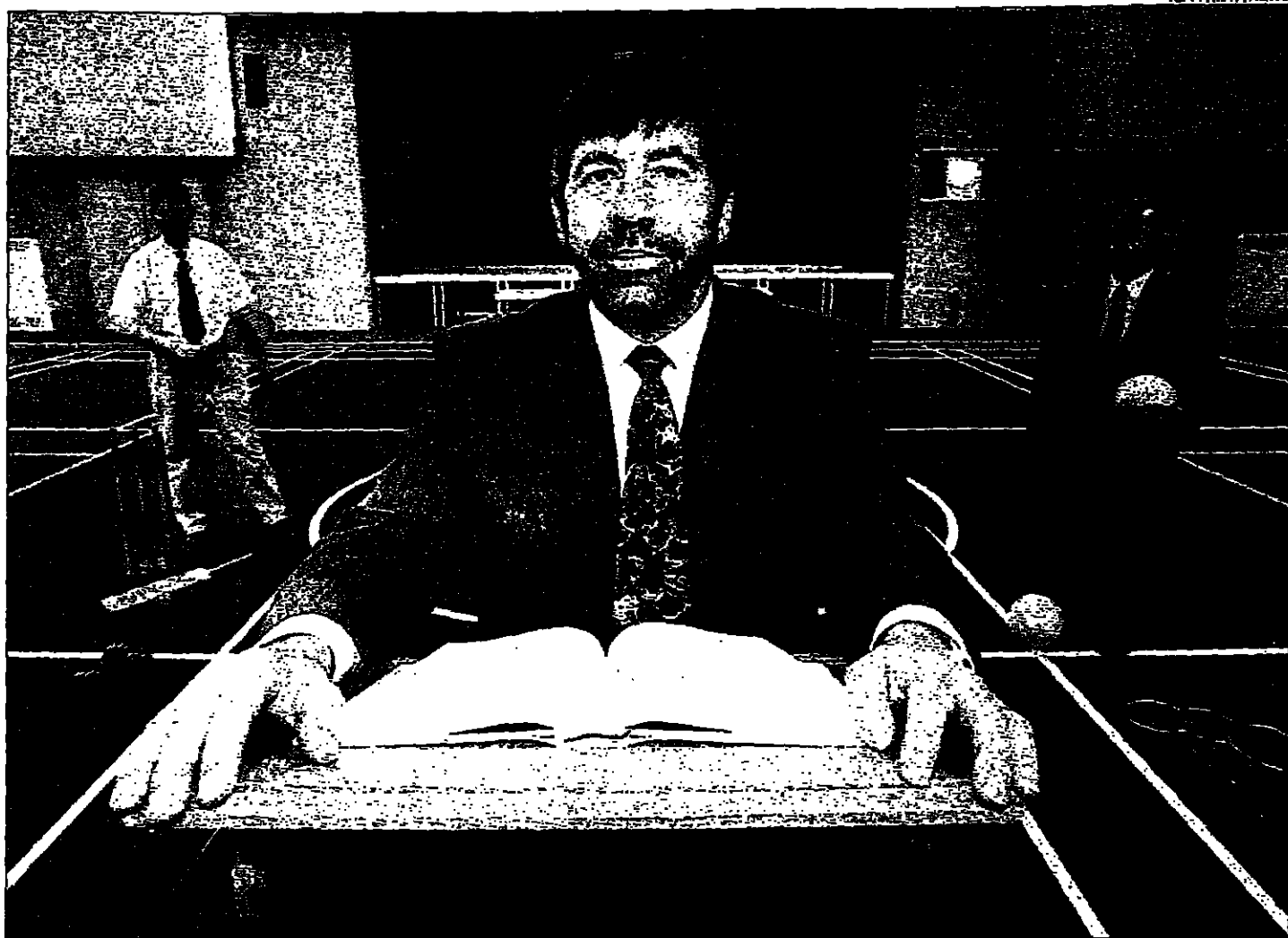
AN AMERICAN-STYLE "super church" has opened in the heart of Britain's burgeoning Bible belt. It is thought to be the first development of its kind here.

On Sundays, the £2.4 million King's Centre in Chessington, Surrey, will be an evangelical church welcoming hundreds of worshippers from a local community of about 20,000. During the week, the massive sports and church complex in the heart of a modern housing estate will operate as a leisure and community centre. It has been built in conjunction with Kingston upon Thames Borough Council in a rare partnership between non-established church and State.

Surrey is part of a Bible belt that stretches across southeast England, where churchgoing is rising rapidly among evangelicals, offsetting a continuing decline in other church traditions, in particular in the liberal wing. The success of the evangelical movement, which consists of some mainstream Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist churches, as well as rapidly growing "new" churches, is thought to be a product of a modern desire for spiritual certainties in an increasingly uncertain world.

Nationally, 28 per cent of England's 3.7 million churchgoers are evangelicals, but in pockets of Surrey, such as Guildford and Woking, nearly 50 per cent of all churchgoers would identify themselves as evangelicals. Examples of thriving new churches include Gerald Coates's Pioneer movement, which meets weekly in a cinema in Esher, Surrey, and once a month in a sports hall in Leatherhead. Many other evangelical churches have been forced to move as they have grown.

The King's Centre is thought to be the first sports hall to be purpose-built for a church. It is



The pastor, Trevor Archer, in the dual purpose centre with the manager, Bob Robinson, left, and fellow pastor John Tindall

being run by the Chessington Evangelical Church, which has 400 members and belongs to the Federation of Independent Evangelical Churches. Until now it has met in a community college near by.

The centre is open from Monday for arts and crafts workshops. Weekly classes include old-time dancing, tap, ballet and disco, fitness workouts, painting tuition, indoor bowls, football training, racquet sports and volleyball. There will also be youth groups. Bible classes and adult education classes covering hobbies, crafts, self-improvement and languages.

Next week, the centre will be used as an examination hall, and it is expected to be hired out for conferences and other events. In

the sports hall, where the church meets, chairs like those used at the Atlanta Olympics have been imported from the United States.

The full-time staff are all church members and the centre is owned and operated by the church under a management agreement with the local authority. In some respects it is comparable to American evangelical church complexes, which offer a wide range of health, social and community services as well as regular worship. However, the Chessington church leaders are anxious not to be associated with the excesses of some American evangelicalism. There are no plans for any form of "televangelism".

Keith Ewing, of the Evangelical Alliance, an umbrella group covering most of Britain's evangelical churches, said: "We have never before come across anything as radical and big as this. It is part of a wider re-engagement with the community. Churches are seeing their role as being back at the very heart of the community." Trevor Archer, the pastor, said: "This church is a hybrid. It has never been done before in this country, and some people said it could not be done."

Chessington evangelicals raised £1.5 million towards the cost. Other money was donated by Christian charitable trusts and £875,000 came from the local authority.

Mark Gilks, former development director at Kingston council, said the centre had grown out of "an amazing courage and vision".

People in the secular world thought of the wider church as declining, irrelevant and housed in crumbling buildings, and of town halls as "out of date, corrupt and loony". Here is an alternative. Local authorities and churches should not be squeamish about partnerships with each other. For they are both there to share one great aim: to serve the local community.

"In this place, a child will learn to dance, a young person will learn team skills they didn't have, a lonely person will enjoy fellowship again, a single parent will receive support and a person in spiritual need will discover meaning."

At Your Service
Weekend, page 15

Parish pump and city square are twin poles of faith

Stephen Platten

"IN OBSERVING the Great Feast of Easter they followed doubtful rules... being so isolated from the rest of the world." So Bede, the 8th-century church historian, wrote of St Columba, the great Celtic saint who brought the Gospel to Iona and, through his disciple St Aidan, to Northumbria.

In this year of anniversaries we celebrate Columba, who died in 597, but we celebrate also St Augustine of Canterbury. Sent by Pope Gregory the Great to evangelise the English, he arrived in Kent in that same year. It is to them that the great pilgrimages this month and next from Rome through Canterbury to Londonderry are dedicated.

It has become fashionable to polarise the two traditions symbolised in Columba and Augustine. The Celtic mission stands for local traditions, a love of creation, the honouring of women and an attractive rhythm of prayer. The Roman mission is about order, universality, hierarchy and, in some circles, the hegemony of Rome. The final showdown between the two was at the Synod of Whitby in 664, where there was a sell-out to the Romans. The attack was led by the single-minded and rapacious St Wilfrid, Bishop of York, who sent the bucolic and misguided Celts packing. Wilfrid is not the most lovable of English saints, but he is a good starting point if we are to unravel the truth behind this year's great celebrations.

Wilfrid was a Northumbrian, formed in the Celtic tradition under the tutelage of the pious Aidan on Lindisfarne. He travelled to Rome, where he learnt of a wider world. Wilfrid represents the confluence of two traditions.

He lived the remote life of a Celtic monastery but was also inducted into the cosmopolitan world of mainland Europe.

Here lies the great contrast between the twin roots of our Christian culture. Celtic missionaries worked largely in the untamed countryside of Ireland, Scotland and Northumbria. They were utterly dependent upon the elements and the natural creation. Their loyalty to Rome was unquestioned, but local culture and a tough landscape coloured their spiritual teaching.

The Roman mission, characterised in Gregory and Augustine, was ordered and urban. Each city had its own bishop and the parish network covered the moribund Roman Empire. A pattern of communication, reaching all the way back to Rome, was established.

Fourteen hundred years later, we can see the essential complementarity of these two pioneering models of evangelisation.

Columba reminds us to treasure our roots and thus the local Church. Augustine points us to the need for unity and to the universality of both our common humanity and the Gospel itself. If I offer Columba the last word, in the form of his deathbed prayer, it is because he speaks of that reconciliation and complementarity, which lie at the heart of the Christian message.

"See that you be at peace among yourselves, my children, and love one another, follow the example of good men of old, and God will comfort you and help you, both in this world and in the world which is to come."

□ The Very Rev Stephen Platten is Dean of Norwich

CD MULTICHANGERS SALE

SAVE UP TO £90



BLAUPUNKT

Pasadena RDS Radio Cassette/CD Multichanger
Was £449.99
Was £399.99

SAVE £90
NOW £359.99



SONY

DJ-C300 RDS Radio Cassette/CD Multichanger
Was £499.99

SAVE £70
NOW £429.99



CD TUNERS SALE

SAVE UP TO £60



SONY

CDX 3100 Radio CD Tuner
Was £279.99

SAVE £50
NOW £229.99



KENWOOD

KDC7040 RL RDS Radio CD Tuner
Was £329.99

SAVE £60
NOW £269.99



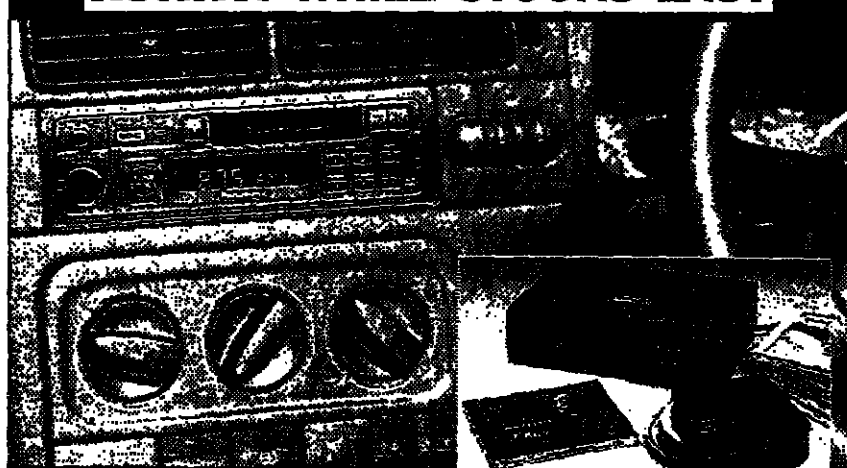
PIONEER

DEH 524R RDS Radio CD Tuner
Was £349.99

SAVE £30
NOW £289.99

HALFORDS CAR AUDIO SALE NOW ON

HURRY! WHILE STOCKS LAST



Panasonic E05/DP600A

Radio Cassette CD Multichanger System
• 4 x 15 Watts Max • 6 Disc CD Changer
• Detachable Part Fascia • FM/MW Radio with 20 presets
SAVE £50 Was £349.99 ONLY £299.99

PROFESSIONAL FITTING

We also offer a fitting service at any Halfords Garage, or at your home or place of work through our national mobile fitting service. Check your local store for details.

HALFORDS

WE'RE ABOUT CARS

RADIO CASSETTES SALE

SAVE UP TO £50



Panasonic

CQE 01A
Was £89.99

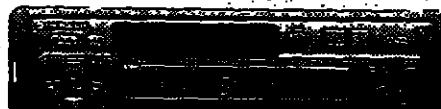
SAVE £10
NOW £79.99



SONY

XR 3501 M2
Was £169.99

SAVE £30
NOW £129.99



PIONEER

KEH 2300R RDS
Was £199.99

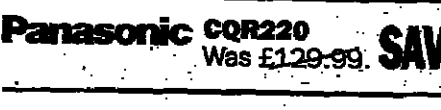
SAVE £30
NOW £169.99



SONY

XR 6700 RDS
Was £249.99

SAVE £50
NOW £199.99



Panasonic

CQR220
Was £129.99

SAVE £30
NOW £99.99



PIONEER

KEH 4300R
Was £249.99

SAVE £50
NOW £199.99

SPEAKERS SALE

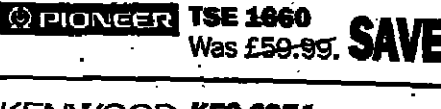
SAVE UP TO £20



SONY

XS 1028
Was £49.99

SAVE £12
NOW £37.99



PIONEER

TSE 1660
Was £59.99

SAVE £15
NOW £44.99



KENWOOD

KFC 6974
Was £89.99

SAVE £20
NOW £69.99

HOW TO FIND US: PHONE 0344 628825 FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST SUPERSTORE. OPENING TIMES: ALL SUPERSTORES OPEN 9AM - 8PM MONDAY - FRIDAY & 9AM - 6PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY. HIGH STREET STORES - PLEASE CHECK LOCALLY. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. HALFORDS LTD, 100 WILLOW STREET DRIVE, WATFORD, Herts, WD17 7PL.

'One mother watched in tears. It was almost as if the scriptwriters had read her son's case notes'

EastEnders praised for breaking taboo on schizophrenia

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE descent into schizophrenia of the teenage character Joe Wicks in *EastEnders* has prompted thousands of calls from sufferers and their families.

The National Schizophrenia Fellowship said yesterday that the story on Britain's most widely watched programme had attracted unprecedented attention and broken society's taboo on talking about the mental illness.

The gradual breakdown over several months of Joe Wicks, played by Paul Nicholls, 18, has been witnessed by up to 22 million viewers.

The fellowship said the story on the BBC soap opera had done more to break the stigma attached to schizophrenia, which affects 250,000 people in Britain, than any number of worthy media appeals.

Although Joe was diagnosed as having schizophrenia only this week, it has been clear to *EastEnders* fans for months that he was descending to mental illness. He has been hearing voices and has complained about evil forces trying to get to him.

Ian Aldwinckle, the programme's story editor, said that he had decided to introduce a character with schizophrenia after working on editions of the drama series

nsfextra
Working together



A schizophrenia bulletin praising *EastEnders*

Casualty, which featured violent and dramatic incidents involving people with the illness.

"When I did the research I was shocked to discover that schizophrenia affects one in 100 people, and yet nobody ever talks about it," he said.

"All you could ever do with *Casualty* was the medical side of it. Because it has a continuing storyline, *EastEnders* was able to look at the effect that schizophrenia has on a family and on individual relationships. I wanted to humanise it and look at the emotional impact it has on people."

Mr Aldwinckle said that,

although the purpose of *EastEnders* was primarily to entertain rather than to educate, he hoped that the Joe Wicks storyline would be helpful. "It seems to me that mental illness is one of the last subjects that you can still make jokes about without being labelled politically incorrect, and that seems wrong."

"If I get just one letter from one person saying that the character of Joe Wicks has helped to change their life for the better, then I will be pleased."

Fiona Carr, a spokeswoman for the fellowship, said that it had received scores of telephone calls from people praising the sensitive way in which the programme had portrayed schizophrenia.

"One mother who rang said she had been watching the programme in tears," Ms Carr said. "She said it was almost as if the *EastEnders* scriptwriters had been reading her son's case notes."

Bharat Mehta, the fellowship's chief executive, said that *EastEnders* had helped to destroy the myths that schizophrenia meant that a person had a split personality and that the illness was likely to make them violent. Although the media often reported cases of schizophrenics who had committed murders, studies



Paul Nicholls as Joe Wicks. The story editor wanted to humanise the illness

have shown that they are less likely to be violent than the general population.

Mr Mehta said that, although schizophrenia accounted for at least 5 per cent of health service spending —

more than any other single illness, including cancer or coronary disease — it was still a taboo subject.

"It remains the last big stigma in society. Barriers have been broken down on

Aids, cancer, Alzheimer's and strokes, but schizophrenia is not something that people readily talk about," he said. "We hope to change that."

Letters, page 23

Patient can sue over 25 years of wrong treatment

By GLEN OWEN

A MAN who claims doctors wrongly diagnosed him as schizophrenic and forced him to live under the stigma of mental illness for more than 25 years can sue his local health authority, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

The court heard that David Piper, 49, received his diagnosis in 1966 after visiting a consultant psychiatrist employed by West Kent Health Authority. He was said to be suffering from schizophrenia, depression and anxiety, and spent his nineteenth birthday in hospital.

The treatment, including electroconvulsive therapy and anti-depressant drugs, continued until March 1992, when he was told that the diagnosis had been mistaken. A new assessment found him to be suffering from phobic anxiety.

Judge Giddes yesterday rejected the health authority's case that Mr Piper had left it too late to launch his action. Mr Piper, from Chatham, Kent, is suing for treatment received at Oakwood Hospital in Maidstone, Medway Hospital in Gillingham and All Saints Hospital, Chatham, between 1966 and 1992.

He claims that the health authority was negligent for making the original diagnosis and for failing to review it for 25 years. "When I found out I was not suffering from schizophrenia, I felt very bitter. I had lost all those years and I can't get them back," Mr Piper said

in his evidence. He added that he had since been weaned off the drugs. "For the first time I feel fully alive."

Diana Brahm, counsel for Mr Piper, said that he had lived under the stigma of mental illness and in a state of "almost permanent hibernation". Medical reports showed that Mr Piper had been "simply written off" after the diagnosis, depriving him of regular employment and inhibiting him from forming lasting relationships, she said.

Mr Piper said that the drugs caused frequent stomach aches and vomiting. After a repeat diagnosis of schizophrenia in 1972, his medications were continued by his GPs. "Basically, I did as I was told. I cannot remember all of the details for the prescriptions, but the effect was that I was more or less constantly taking some drug or another."

He had not reported his stomach pains because he was frightened he would be sent back to a mental hospital. In 1991, he consulted a solicitor after reading about compensation for addiction to Valium, one of the anti-depressants he was taking. The solicitor arranged a fresh diagnosis.

After the ruling, Miss Brahm told the judge that Mr Piper was negotiating with the health authority to settle the damages claim, which she later described as "substantial, probably running into six figures".

Hay fever pills 'bigger road risk'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TIPSY driver is less of a danger than one made drowsy by hay fever pills, according to new research.

Scientists at Surrey University found that some antihistamines increased a driver's risk of an accident by a factor of six, compared with a factor of four for a driver who was just over the legal alcohol limit.

"These drugs work because they inhibit the histamine which causes allergic reaction, but which also keeps us awake," Ian Hindmarch, of the university's human psychopharmacology unit, said.

"The ones which cause drowsiness do so because they penetrate the barrier between the bloodstream and the brain. This means they slow reactions and cause tiredness. If we want to reduce the number of accidents, we don't

want people driving around after taking these tablets."

He accepted recent research showing that antihistamines that do not cause drowsiness could be fatal to some people with heart conditions. "The point is that only around 14 people died as a result of this in the course of 15 years. We need to get this in proportion. Recent research has shown that 4,500 people are killed and another 135,000 are injured each year in the European Union as a result of accidents caused by people taking medicinal drugs. A third of these are people taking antihistamines that cause drowsiness."

Mr Hindmarch said that it was also dangerous to forgo medication, because a sneeze would cause a driver to shut his eyes for up to 100 yards.

Veterans pay tribute to Soviet dead

By JOHN YOUNG

VETERANS of the Arctic convoys and senior Russian officers toasted each other with vodka yesterday to launch a project to erect a London memorial to the 26 million people of the former Soviet Union who died in the struggle against Hitler.

It will stand in the grounds of the Imperial War Museum. A design competition has been opened in Russia and some of the entries were on display yesterday.

The project was initiated by the Society for Co-operation in Russian and Soviet Studies after the VE-Day commemoration two years ago. General Vadislav Pronin, representing the Russian military, said: "We continue to be grateful to our allies for the moral and material support they gave us."

BUY A FLYMO
AND WE'LL
GIVE YOU
£20 FOR
CUTTING
THE GRASS

What could be nicer than the sweet smell of freshly cut grass?

The sweet smell of money perhaps? Well, if you buy any Flymo Turbo Compact mower between 2nd and 26th May we'll give you £20.

All you have to do is simply cut out the coupon and send it to us with a SAE, your receipt and product registration card, and we'll send you £20. So, before you make a start on the grass on your lawn, start cutting the grass on this ad.

SEND TO: FLYMO £20 CASHBACK BACK OFFER, FLYMO, PRESTON ROAD, AYCLIFFE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, NEWTON AYCLIFFE, CO. DURHAM, DL5 6UP. APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 9 JUNE 1997. PLEASE ALLOW 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE CLAIMS THAT DO NOT MEET THESE CONDITIONS.

AL PACINO JOHNNY DEPP

"SENSATIONAL"

"THE GANGSTER MOVIE TO END ALL GANGSTER MOVIES"

"SUPERB"

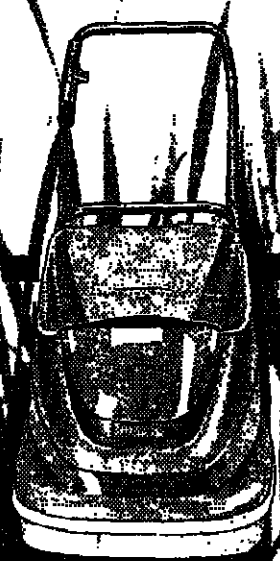
"A MASTERPIECE"

"BRILLIANT"

"THE MOST COMPELLING MOB MOVIE SINCE 'THE GODFATHER'"

DONNIE BRASCO

NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE



Flymo

Immigrants can be starved out, Le Pen tells French voters

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

JEAN-MARIE LE PEN, leader of the extreme-right National Front, pushed his race message to the forefront of the French parliamentary elections yesterday by comparing immigrants to a flock of ravenous birds who could be starved out rather than sent home.

"When you have a cherry tree, you will see swarms of starlings arrive just when the cherries are ripe... they will not leave until all the cherries are gone," M. Le Pen, who prides himself on his xenophobic rhetoric, said in a radio interview.

"We should stop giving foreigners what attracts them and explain that we do not have the means to support them or even to employ them. They will leave by themselves. It is not a question of sending them back: we will allow them to leave," he said.

The National Front, campaigning on a "French First" platform, has traditionally argued that France's three million immigrants from Third World countries should be repatriated if they try to remain in France more than one year.

Partly contradicting his own suggestion that immigrants, deprived of support or work, would drift away of their own accord, M. Le Pen said that funds to help immigrants to return home could be found by cutting off aid to foreign heads of state. Such money "usually ends up in Swiss bank accounts," he added.

The immigration issue has also been taken up by the mainstream parties in a contest that is growing closer by the day, according to opinion polls.

Responding to an article published yesterday by Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader, Alain Juppé, the Gaullist Prime Minister, demanded to know how "a massive immigration of clandestine immigration" could be avoided if the Left fulfilled its election promise to scrap the present stringent immigration laws.

The latest opinion poll by the Ipsos institute, published by the magazine *Le Point* yes-



Le Pen said foreigners would choose to leave

terday, suggests that the left-wing opposition is now closer than ever to bringing off a surprise victory in the two-round election on May 25 and June 1.

The survey predicted that the ruling centre-right coalition would see its huge representation cut, having just 290 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly, thus giving the present Government only one more MP than was necessary for a majority.

No opinion poll has yet

Europe Day celebrated in France

Paris: The Eiffel Tower and Paris buses were decked out with gold-starred European flags yesterday as France celebrated Europe Day with a fervour which organisers insisted was unrelated to the parliamentary election campaign.

More than 3,000 events were being planned across France, half of them sponsored by the pro-federalist European Movement, to mark the anniversary of Robert Schumann's 1950 founding call for the creation of a European community. Other European countries also staged special celebrations to mark the event. (Reuters)

Yeltsin invokes patriotic spirit of veterans

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

TO THE rousing strains of a military band and the thundering march of thousands of goose-stepping soldiers, Russia's elite yesterday turned out to mark the nation's victory over Hitler, and also to ponder its military decline.

On the first hot day of the year, President Yeltsin, flanked by the country's armed forces chiefs, stood to attention at the Lenin Mausoleum in Red Square and called on his countrymen to take inspiration from the example set by the veterans of the Second World War.

"A Victory Day military parade on Red Square is a symbol of Russian soldiers' loyalty to the tradition of the Great Patriotic War heroes," he said, speaking in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the armed forces. "It is the sacred duty of the Russian Army to preserve and augment these traditions."

In Russia - which lost 27 million people during the conflict - VE-Day is still regarded by many as the country's most important national holiday, when lost family members are remembered and the survivors of some of the most bloody battles in history are honoured. Certainly yesterday elderly men and women, some weighed down by the rows of campaign medals pinned to their chests, relived their exploits and brushed away tears for those who did not return from the front.

However, that wartime spirit has all but evaporated in today's Russia. Although the soldiers on parade were well drilled and smartly turned out, the display paled by comparison with previous anniversaries, when the city streets shook with the rumble of tanks and the air vibrated with the roar of jets.

Yesterday, for the first time, no naval personnel took part in the parade, and the gaps in the ceremony had to be filled with incongruous ballroom dancers and folk-singers who pranced uneasily between the serried ranks of troops. In an annual message to the esti-



Two former Soviet Second World War veterans embrace yesterday at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow, where President Yeltsin addressed the thousands who gathered for the 52nd Victory Day parade

mated 1.5 million men and women in uniform, President Yeltsin this week bemoaned the state of the military and vowed to press ahead with his plans to reform the once mighty Soviet army into a modern professional force. In spite of his pledge, however, experts remain doubtful that the situation in the military will improve soon.

"In Russia today there is no reform to speak of in the armed forces," said a Western military source, well acquainted with the Russian Army. "Officers go for months without pay. Draft dodging is widespread. Theft of military property, including weapons, is rampant. Discipline has collapsed and officers frequently ignore orders from their superiors."

His grim assessment was backed up by a recent incident near Moscow when some of the country's top fighter pilots refused to take part in a special air display for the

visiting Chinese president unless they were paid. Their stoppage, one of a number of cases of insubordination, ended when their back-pay quickly appeared.

Mr Yeltsin may not be able to allow the situation to drift much longer without running the risk of a backlash that could benefit his nationalist and Communist opponents.

General Aleksandr Lebed, a former paratrooper with presidential ambitions, has frequently given warnings about the possibility of a mutiny, and yesterday he mocked the Kremlin's attempts at reform. "The minister of defence changed his uniform for a civilian suit, army generals changed one big star for four small ones, and that is all that has been reformed," General Lebed said. "With such an approach army reform in Russia has no future."

At a separate ceremony about 2,000 people gathered

at a monument to honour the 100,000 Jews who died during the Nazi occupation of the Minsk ghetto.

London: Britain and Russia yesterday launched a plan to build a memorial to the 27 million people from the former Soviet Union who were killed during the Second World War. The joint project envisages the unveiling of a monument in the grounds of the Imperial War Museum in London in 1998, according to a spokesman at the Russian Embassy. The monument will be made by a Russian sculptor and paid for by public subscription in Russia and other countries. (Reuters)

Macau police on alert after casino Triad murders

FROM CATHERINE FIELD IN MACAU

THEY used to call it sleepy Macau, an enclave that was good for a relaxing weekend. Portuguese food and *vinho verde*. Now it has become the crime capital of the South China coast, a place haunted by a nightmarish gangland war that has claimed dozens of lives, left scores injured and is scaring off foreign investors.

The Macau Government issued an appeal for calm and placed its police on a war footing to prepare for the weekend influx of gamblers from nearby Hong Kong after three people were murdered in front of the territory's biggest casino last Sunday. A gunman, riding pillion on a motorcycle, drew alongside a car in front of the Lisboa Casino in the heart of Macau and sprayed its interior with bullets, killing its three occupants.

The victims were all key members of the 14K, one of the biggest Triads operating in the Pearl River delta and part of an organised crime network whose tentacles reach into Hong Kong and across the border into mainland China. The police said the trio were associates of the Triad's local "dragonhead", or leader, nicknamed Broken Teeth Kol.

Five days earlier, a 25-year-old Macau-born Eurasian was stabbed to death near the casino after a car chase across the peninsula. A week before, a young nurse was murdered. The deaths brought the gang-linked murder toll so far this year to 14; last year it was a total of 21. Scores of people have also been injured in stabbing incidents and shops have been damaged by bombs.

The gang warfare between the 14K and its rival, the Wo On Lok, is aimed at winning control over profits from casino loan-sharking, smuggling, prostitution and drug-trafficking. But what is giving the authorities sleepless nights is that the Triads have also taken on the Government. Last November they attempted to assassinate Lieutenant-Colonel Manuel Antonio Apolinario, then Deputy Director of Ma-

cau's Gambling Inspectorate, in an almost identical drive-by shooting. Colonel Apolinario was shot twice, in the face and neck. Bullets found at the scene were of 7.62mm calibre, the standard issue for Chinese army handguns.

Albano Cabral, the Judiciary Police Deputy Director, has reassured the public and tourists that they are not in the firing line. The recent murders, he said, were the work of "professional killers who don't miss their targets".

Brigadier Manuel Soares Monge, the Under Secretary for Security, said: "We are aware there are two main rival elements involved and our efforts are concentrated on the major people connected to these groups." He added that the Government would seek to push through anti-Triad legislation.



lution to allow police to bug telephones and use high-tech surveillance.

China, which will regain sovereignty over the enclave from Portugal in December 1999, has now entered the fray. Officials in the neighbouring Chinese city of Zhuhai are preparing to give Macau police a list of Triads with known links to gangs operating in the enclave. Zhuhai authorities are alarmed by what is going on and taking steps to prevent crime spilling over from Macau. Zhuhai, a special economic zone, is a boom area notorious for prostitution and racketeering.

Public anxiety about the violence has sparked demand for personal protection in Macau: one shop, the Long Van Trading Company, said it had run out of bullet-proof vests.

WHY JUST PICK
UP YOUR
BUILDING SOCIETY
SHARES...

WHEN YOUR WINDFALL COULD GROW WITH US?

If you're likely to receive a windfall bonus of free shares from your building society and haven't already invested in a General PEP for the 1997/98 tax year, you could use the shares in addition to your normal PEP investment allowance of £6,000 per tax year and provide a tax-free shelter for your windfall bonus. But only if you apply within 42 days from the date the shares are issued.

We will transfer the shares into a General PEP and sell them on your behalf. The proceeds will be used to buy units in our UK 100 Companies Fund and will remain within the PEP. If you'd like to register for more information right away, call us free on

0 8 0 0 3 6 3 4 8 8
quoting code TTE10M

MARKS & SPENCER
FINANCIAL SERVICES

The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

* You can invest up to £6,000 in each tax year in a General PEP. Any tax deducted from your income is shared back from the fund. Income on your behalf and any gain you make when selling your Plan is also shared back. The fund is managed by Marks & Spencer's UK 100 Companies Fund. The value of any tax benefits will depend upon your individual financial circumstances.

Marks & Spencer's UK 100 Companies Fund is managed by Marks & Spencer's UK 100 Companies Fund Management Limited, a subsidiary of Marks & Spencer's UK 100 Companies Fund Management Limited. Marks & Spencer's UK 100 Companies Fund Management Limited is a member of the Marks & Spencer's UK 100 Companies Fund Management Group, which uses the business name Marks & Spencer Financial Services.

If you don't enjoy free banking...

Annual current account charges (annual fees for use of £250 overdraft)	
Lloyds Classic	£96.00
NatWest Current Plus	£60.00
Barclays Bank Account	£60.00
First Direct Cheque Account	£0.00

...you're with the wrong bank

Join us today and never be with the wrong bank again

0800 24 24 24

Call free or complete the coupon and post to:
First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds LS98 2RF

Surname _____
Forename(s) _____
UK Address _____
Postcode _____
Telephone No _____

Free from charges

Banking with First Direct is free because we do not charge Cheque Account customers for everyday banking transactions, even if you're overdrawn. And all our customers automatically receive an overdraft up to £250 - also free of any fees. So compared to other high street bank accounts you're better off with First Direct from day one. We're a member of the HSBC Group which is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world, and in the course of a year you'll find we offer more cost effective current account banking. And the service we provide means you benefit in many other ways too.

By telephone, 24 hours a day

We provide the ultimate in convenience. You can bank with us at any time, 365 days (and nights) of the year, from wherever there's a telephone, in your home, office or car. And all UK calls are charged at local rates.

Personal and professional service

Every call is answered by our Banking Representatives. They have all they need at their fingertips to deal with your day-to-day banking needs. And when you require more specialised assistance, such as a loan, they can instantly refer you to someone who can help.

Getting cash is easy

Every Cheque Account customer receives the First Direct Card. This allows you to withdraw up to £500 a day from over 12,500 cash machines around the UK, including those of Midland. It also guarantees cheques for £100 and includes the Switch payment facility.

So is paying bills

Our service includes a free bill payment service. Simply call, tell us who to pay, how much and when, and we do it. This means you can pay your bills at the most convenient time without the need to keep having to remember to organise it.

A full banking service with more benefits

As well as our Cheque Account we offer saving, borrowing, travel and insurance services cost effectively by telephone. Take saving; our rates are always competitive, we offer transfers to and from your Cheque Account. So your money is always working hard without the need for you to do the same.

We work hard to maintain the service

The best people to demonstrate the quality of a banking service are its customers - 87% of ours have recommended us to their friends and colleagues in the last 12 months.

Opening an account is easy too

We also appreciate how daunting changing bank accounts can be. So we make it easy. Easy to open a First Direct account, then easy to arrange for your salary to be paid in and easy for all your standing orders and direct debits to be transferred to your account. And it's easy (and free) to find out more right now. Call us on 0800 24 24 24 or complete the coupon.

first direct

Republicans seek federal trials for teenage crime

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS sought to seize the initiative over juvenile crime in America yesterday, overwhelmingly endorsing a crime Bill that would allow offenders as young as 13 to be tried in federal courts.

The legislation, easily approved by the House of Representatives but still requiring the stamp of the Senate, would also offer block grants totalling \$1.5 billion (£925 million) to states that modify their laws along federal lines.

Few young offenders are tried in federal courts, however, so the vote to toughen federal penalties for violent crimes such as murder, rape and armed robbery is largely symbolic.

But if Congress can persuade the states to follow suit, the effects could be important. It would all but abolish the special treatment traditionally granted young people accused of serious crimes and could bring about the most sweeping changes in the juvenile criminal system in decades.

Not only does the Juvenile Crime Control Bill require minors who commit violent acts to be tried as adults, but also demands in some cases that, once convicted, they should share jails with older

felons. President Clinton, touring Latin America, denounced the Bill for its failure to balance tough enforcement with prevention and intervention. Unlike his Youth Violence Act, the President said, the Republican legislation did nothing to combat gang violence or to bar the sale of guns to 18-year-olds with juvenile criminal records.

Democrats portrayed the opposition Bill as a vote-face in which the Republicans contradicted their deeply held philosophy of returning power to the states. But the stringent measures of the proposed law, which passed in the House by 286 to 132, clearly resonated among more conservative Democrats, 77 of whom supported the opposition agenda.

Although statistics show that nationally crime rates are dipping, including figures for juvenile offences, a fifth of violent crime in America is committed by people under 18.

George Gekas, a Republican congressman from Pennsylvania, said: "Americans are shocked by the brutality and viciousness of crimes that are being committed by 13, 14 and 15-year-olds. And they are equally shocked when they see a system that treats these

juveniles as something less than the predators they seem to be."

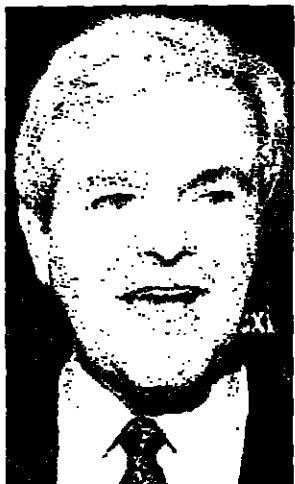
The most recent figures show that only 200 defendants aged 18 or younger were tried on federal charges in 1994, but about 12,300 young people a year are prosecuted as adults in state courts. That figure would soar if the Bill were to become law.

States hoping to qualify for the block grant, designed to enable the employment of more prosecutors, the building of more jails and the creation of drug courts would have to meet four conditions. They would have to ensure that juveniles of 15 or older were tried as adults, that draconian penalties were imposed on repeat offenders, that a tracking system was established for minors and that parents would face court orders if guilty of improper supervision of their children.

Defendants as young as 14 would be tried as adults and the legislation would allow state attorneys-general to move the trial of a 13-year-old to an adult court. About two thirds of the states would be forced to toughen their juvenile laws to become eligible for the grants.

Gingrich leads drug crusade

BY TOM RHODES



Gingrich: wants life in jail for drug traffickers

NEWT GINGRICH, the House Speaker, yesterday outlined a Republican blueprint for social reform, promising by 2001 to eradicate drug use, improve education and convince Americans their country was founded on faith.

In his first big policy speech of the current Congress, designed to bolster a previously precarious role as Speaker, Mr Gingrich said his team was ready for widespread change in American morality by the millennium.

"The vision that there can be a secular polity divorced from the reality of the Creator is an empty desert of despair," Mr Gingrich told members of the

National Religious Broadcasters. "It is vital that we reassert the centrality of faith in the definition of America."

His proposals, which aides said last night would dominate the Speaker's personal agenda in the coming years, include at their heart a plan to banish illegal drugs from America.

Mr Gingrich and Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, have co-sponsored a Bill that would impose mandatory life sentences for first-time offenders caught trafficking large quantities of drugs across the border. The death sentence would apply for a second offence.



Pamela Anderson Lee giving evidence in a Los Angeles court in a case in which she is accused of backing out of a film, leaving the producers high and dry

Actress 'broke film contract' over sex scene on pool table

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

PAMELA ANDERSON LEE, the former doyenne of *Baywatch* lifeguards, is accused in a Los Angeles court of backing out of a film role because it involved simulated sex on a pool table.

Ms Anderson Lee, who was never shy of nudity as the most popular "playmate" in *Playboy* magazine's history, agrees that she objected to the sexual content of a script entitled *Hello, She Lied*. She is being sued for \$5 million (£3 million) by producers who say she left them high and dry. The script, based on a

recent bestseller by the producer Lynda Obst, was offered to the Canadian actress but was eventually made as *Miami Hustler*, starring the swimsuit model Kathy Ireland. At issue is whether Ms Anderson Lee, 29, made a mere verbal agreement or signed a deal, on the strength of which the Private Movie Company claims it hired extras and security guards and agreed the details of her trailer. "I did not pull out," Ms Anderson Lee said in evidence on Thursday. She admitted under cross-examination having withdrawn in the past from a signed deal to make a *Playboy* video.

The actress dismayed fans last December by announcing that last year's *Baywatch* season had been her last. She planned to spend more time with her seven-month-old son, Brandon, and to "pursue other interests", she said. The news came a month after she sued for divorce from her husband, Tommy Lee, a rock drummer, only to be reconciled with him ten days later. The couple were married on a Mexican beach in 1995.

Taleban shelters Islamic 'terrorist'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KANDAHAR

ONE of the world's most wanted terrorist suspects, Osama Bin Laden, has moved with his three wives to the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, headquarters of the Taleban Islamic militia.

He is living near the derelict airport, hidden from view because, even for Taleban, which claims to have ended his terrorist activities, he is an embarrassment. America has called him "one of the most significant sponsors of Islamic extremist activities in the world today".

He is wanted in Egypt for allegedly funding a plot to murder President Mubarak and is a suspect in two bombings in Saudi Arabia last year in which 24 American soldiers died.

Born in Saudi Arabia, he was earlier living in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, where he arrived a year ago with 150 men. He organised training for Islamic terrorists, mostly Sudanese and Saudis, in camps surrounding the city. He was allowed to remain after Taleban captured Jalalabad from the former Government last year, and continued to maintain contacts with the outside world by personal satellite telephone.

He has private wealth of more than £100 million, inherited from his father's construction business, and may have given financial help to Taleban. This would paradoxically put him on the same side as the Saudi Government, his nemesis and which he regards as corrupt.

Mullah Muhammad Hassan, 40, Governor of Kandahar Province and a senior Taleban leader — he may be the second-in-command — said Mr Bin Laden was shifted to Kandahar a month ago. He insisted that giving him protection did not violate international law because he would be killed if he were sent out of the country.

"He is a human being, and we have to rescue him. We also watched him closely in Jalalabad after we captured the city."

Mullah Hassan claimed that Bin Laden had been instructed by Taleban to stop all foreign activities.

Body part suspect released

MONS: The lone suspect in the hunt for a Belgian serial killer, who left the body parts of many as five women in 15 rubbish bags, was released yesterday. Body parts were found in locations with macabre names, such as Antwerp Lane and River Hate, but none was found since his arrest two weeks ago. (AFP)

Crash toll up

BEIJING: The death toll in China's first aviation disaster in three years, when a Boeing 737 slammed into the runway in the city of Shenzhen, rose to 35. (Reuters)

Children raped

NEVERS, France: Jacky Kaisermetz, 58, a retired teacher, has admitted raping dozens of children over 30 years, police said. He was arrested after a victim left a message. (AFP)

On the fiddle

NEW YORK: A concert violinist who smuggled rare violins into America was fined and ordered to perform at naturalisation ceremonies welcoming new citizens to the country. (AP)

Lorry tragedy

DELHI: A lorry carrying 90 guests to a wedding party fell into a gorge in northern India killing at least 71 people, many of them children, and injuring eight others. (Reuters)

Wiesel 'no'

NEW YORK: Elie Wiesel, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, said that he had declined the post of international chairman of a Swiss bank-backed fund for Holocaust victims. (AFP)

Old flame

ANKARA: A Turkish man, 85, has been charged with arson after setting fire to the home of his wife's lover, who is 25. The wife, 60, and lover were charged with adultery. (AFP)

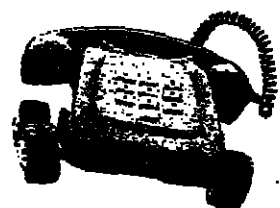
DIRECT LINE INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT

Saving up for a holiday, conservatory or even a big wedding?
You can save yourself the trouble of looking for better rates.

	£1- £4,999	£5,000- £9,999	£10,000- £24,999	£25,000- £49,999	£50,000- £99,999	£100,000+
Direct Line Instant Access Account	4.50%	5.00%	5.60%	5.75%	6.00%	6.10%
Halifax Solid Gold (30 Day Notice)	3.00% ¹	3.25%	4.00%	4.50%	4.60%	4.60%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	3.50%	4.20%	4.80%	5.10%	5.90% ¹¹¹
Nationwide Capitalbuilder 90 Day	4.00% ¹¹¹	4.30%	4.50%	4.80%	5.10%	5.10%

All rates are gross* and correct as 28th April 1997. Source: Moneyfacts. *Rate effective from £500.
¹Rate effective from £1,000 (from 1st May rate effective from £500). ¹¹¹Rate effective from £200,000.

- Whatever you're saving for you'll get it quicker if you save with Direct Line.
- Especially since our rates have recently risen again.
- And with Direct Line you get instant access to your money as well as higher rates.
- The more savings you have the higher our rates get.
- You can pool your savings with family or friends for even higher returns.
- So make the most of your savings, move them to Direct Line.



DIRECT LINE
SAVINGS

0181 667 1121

0161 833 1121

0141 221 1121

LONDON

MANCHESTER

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TT79
www.directline.co.uk • TV Teletext page 377. A Royal Bank of Scotland company.

Savings are provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SA, which is a member of the Deposit Protection Scheme established under the Banking Act 1987 (as amended). Payments under the scheme are limited to 95% of a depositor's total deposits subject to a maximum payment to any one depositor of £35,000 (or ECU 20,000 if greater). Further details of the Scheme are available on request. *The gross rate is the rate paid without the deduction of income tax. All rates shown are subject to variation and are based on annual payment of interest. For your added security telephone calls may be recorded and the recording kept secure. We may also monitor telephone calls with the aim of improving our service to you. Direct Line and the red telephone icon which are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with its permission.

10p

THE TIMES

FOOTBALL

The climax of the season.
Who will avoid the drop
from the Premiership?

GRAND PRIX

The world's most
glamorous Grand Prix.
Who will win this year
at Monaco?

IN MONDAY'S

10P TIMES

CRICKET

A 12-page supplement
on The Ashes clash
this summer.

FEATURE

Women.
How to survive
a mid-life crisis.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES



DANCE 1

Blood, lust and flamenco: Antonio Gades and company serve up a heady brew in Glasgow



DANCE 2

The young turks of Netherlands Dans Theatre start their British tour with an action-filled evening in London

THE TIMES ARTS



WHAT'S ON

From the evergreen rock 'n' roll of Aerosmith, on display in Manchester



WHAT'S ON

... to a London recital by Pavarotti: top events are listed today in The Directory

DANCE: Flamenco with side-dishes in a fiery Spanish melodrama; first-rate performances from a Dutch second string

ANTONIO GADES, flamenco superstar, does not perform these days, concentrating instead on directing his capacious company. Not that you would notice his absence from the stage straight away: Manuel Huertas has the broad shoulders and long legs of the Gades silhouette and has evidently been groomed as a younger version of the master.

In *Fuenteovejuna* (at the Royal Concert Hall) he plays Frandoso Jose, who courageously draws a knife on the tyrannical Commander to save the honour of Laurencia, his future bride (Elvira Andres). Furious, the Commander abducts the couple at their wedding and rapes Laurencia, an outrage which incites Fuenteovejuna's townspeople to kill their oppressor. *Fuenteovejuna* is Gades's 1994 version of Lope de Vega's celebrated play of the same title. Located at the end of 15th-century Spain, it is a simple tale of public politics and private emotions stirring told. No wonder the Soviet Russians also pounced on it as an apt subject for a ballet called *Laurencia*.

As in the *Carmen* which he brings to

A question of honour

Fuenteovejuna
Glasgow

London's Peacock Theatre next week. Gades structures his piece tersely and straightforwardly so that Lope de Vega is not betrayed. The stark decor of stakes, chairs and wooden chests is all-purpose but evocative. The action advances by means of set-pieces of folk dance and song, drawing on the infinite variety of Spain's traditions and obviating the potential monotony of an exclusively flamenco menu.

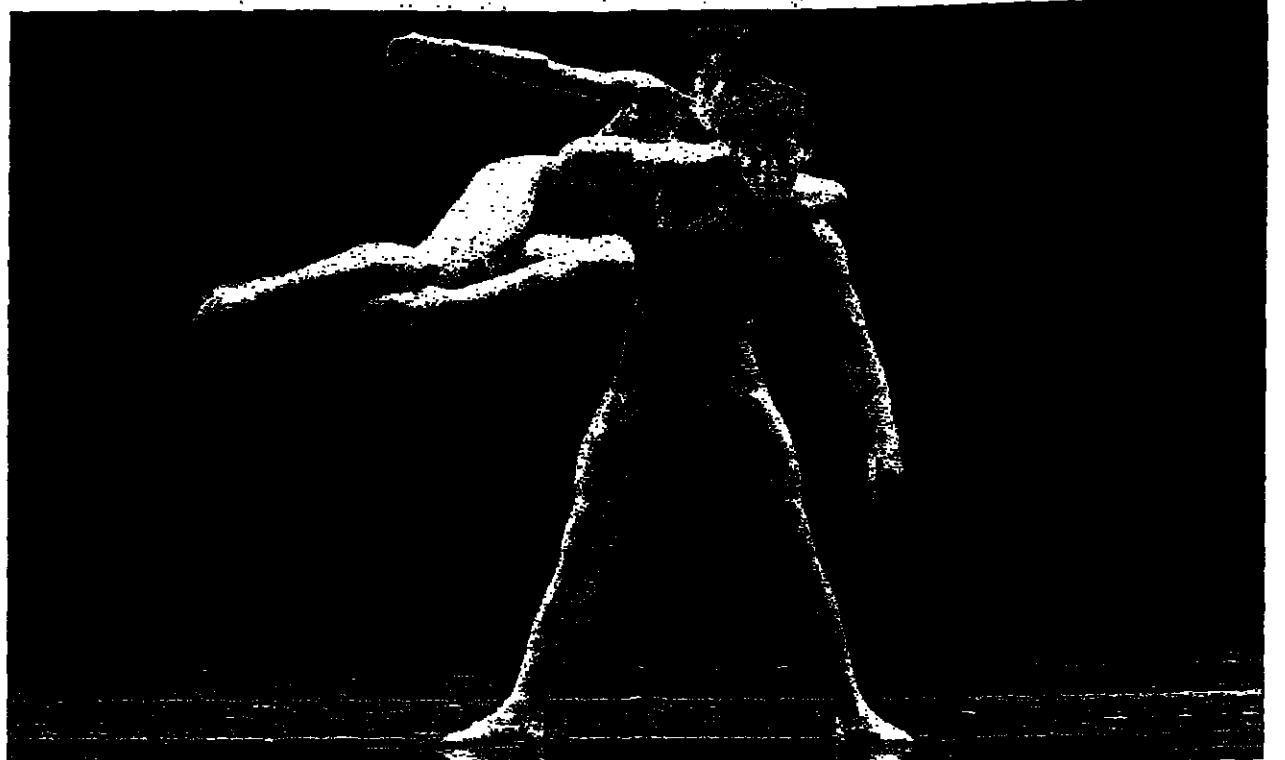
The wedding celebration, for example, not only includes a flamenco *bulerias*, successive individuals performing their

solo turns, but a breakneck *jota* round the bride, the bouncing jack-knifing legs reminiscent of Celtic jigs. These items conjured up a wonderfully appropriate sense of life and community.

It was clever of Gades to transform the explanatory, solo form of flamenco song into a debate conducted by the town elders over what to do against the Commander. It was even cleverer to alternate that with stylised references to Laurencia's violation, enacted in parallel on stage.

The ensemble dances produce sweep and excitement. The sudden moment when the bride is led between her husband and her father has a joyous solemnity to bring a lump to any throat. The militaristic Commander and his two henchmen, arriving like gate-crashers with body odour, are effectively ominous. Pity about the mix of recorded and live music and song. I wondered what was being mouthed to tape and what was genuine; I resented the confusion.

NADINE MEISNER



Chiasto Ohno of NDT2 gets a lift from Brynjar Bandlien in Paul Lightfoot's sporty little number, *Skew-whiff*

Not-yet-famous five

Jiri Kylian's Netherlands Dans Theatre 2, a showcase for the younger performers in his empire, is in generous mood. Eight works are in its repertoire, and up to five can be seen in one evening, which is what we got when NDT2 kicked off its tour on Thursday.

better of him. Kylian was capable of making heartfelt dances that spoke directly to an audience's experiences. In *Songs of a Wayfarer*, ten dancers perform a series of pas de deux set to Mahler's song cycle. Love and longing are familiar Kylian emotions, and here they are thoughtfully revealed in choreography that captures the ruminative spirit of the music. The five couples are intensely locked into one another's focus, and the piece has a reassuring feeling of being at peace with itself.

Hans van Manen, NDT's resident choreographer, is another heavyweight contributor to the repertoire. Not much can be said in favour of his lugubrious duet *Déjà Vu* — except that it was mercifully

NDT2
Peacock, WC2

short — but *Solo* is another matter. Set to Bach's Violin Suite No 1 in D minor, it is a speedy, spinning, sprightly series of virtuoso solos for three men, even if it leaves you wondering. Seven dancers are locked into a confined space. Like specimens in a box, with only two shafts of light to alleviate their darkness. Above them a huge eye peers through a hole in the wall, following their every move with sinister attention.

The dancers find solace in each other's company, and derive strength from shared

memories. A revisited love affair helps to banish the isolation, at least for the moment. There is no doubting the mood, but Inger's meaning is obscure. The music is by Gorecki and Wojciech Kilar, from the film score of *Death and the Maiden*.

The British-born Paul Lightfoot is one of NDT's most prominent dancers and a choreographer of promise. It would be easy to attack his choice of music — *The Thieving Magpie* is such a cliché — if his *Skew-whiff* was not such good fun. Three men and a woman wriggle and writhe through a sporty, sexy little number that sends us home with a smile. NDT2 is at the Brighton Festival next week, before moving to Scotland.

DEBRA CRAINE

OPERA & BALLET

COUSINEM 0171 632 6300 (day)
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tue 7.30
MADAM BUTTERFLY
Royal Opera House 0171 304 4000 (Box Office & Sunday info)
Tickets available on the day
The Royal Opera
Tue 7.30 (Last Night)
L'ELISIR D'AMORE
Tue 7.30 (First Night)
The Royal Ballet
Today 2.00 & 7.30
TODAY'S THE LAST DAY
TUESDAY'S AMORE
BALANCHINE'S SYMPHONY IN C
Mon 7.30 (Last Night) ANASTASIA

THEATRES

ADRIAN
Legendary Entertainer
JERRY LEWIS
DANNY YANKEES
A ballroom musical... with heart
Red, once a week... with heart
Opera House 0171 413 1777 (Day)
Low box office prices 0800 61 4003
0171 930 3000 (no fee)

ALBERT THEATRE 0171 304 0171
Box 1730 (no fee)
Opera House 0171 413 1777 (Day)
Low box office prices 0800 61 4003
0171 930 3000 (no fee)

THE GOODBYE GIRL
A New Musical
"TERRIFIC... one of the best
nightclubs in London..."
Opera House 0171 413 1777 (Day)
Low box office prices 0800 61 4003
0171 930 3000 (no fee)

ALOWYCH 0171 416 6007/020 0000
C1 (no fee)
Groups 0171 416 6075
Eves 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 8pm
"THE BEST ORIGINAL PLAY IN
TOWN... STUNNINGLY
BRILLIANT"
Herald Tribune

MICHAEL
GARDNER
ALEC
MACCOWEN
"TOWERING
PERFORMANCES"
The Evening Standard
TOM & CLEM
A new play by
STEPHEN CHURCHETT
Directed by
RICHARD WILSON
"HIGHLY ENJOYABLE" C1
"WONDERFULLY COMIC"
The Spectator

APOLLO VICTORIA 0171 416 6005
cc 2845 0171 344 4440/0171
420 0000 Gps 416 6075/416 321
Andrew Lloyd Webber's
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
THE FASTEST
SHOW ON EARTH
White trachea runs 19.45 daily
Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50
CAMBRIDGE 416 5004/416 0000
344 4440/020 0000 (4 bag fee)
Groups 416 5454
416 6075/416 321/416 5666

GREASE
Starring SHANE RICHIE
"A Musical Hit" D1
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 8pm
GREASE NOW BIG INTO 1996

COMEDY 0171 360 1731
344 4440/020 0000 (2845)
Eves & Sat 8pm Wed & Sat 4.30
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
PETER BOWLES
CARMEN
SILVERA
ERIC SYKES
In Michael's hilarious comedy
THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES
"POSITIVELY GLITTERING"
THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS
Daily Mail

CRITERION 969 1737/344 4444
REDUCED SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY in
THE COMPLETE WORKS
OF WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE (abridged)
At 37 Plays in 97 Minutes
"Millions" Times
Mats Thur & Sat 3. Sat 4.30
Sun 4. Eves at 8pm
THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF
AMERICA (abridged)
Tuesday at 8pm
London's Longest Running
Comedy 70

DOMINION 0171 635 1850/020
20420/020 0000 (bag fee) Gps 416
6005/012 1957/020 61 4503
The Magic comes alive on stage
DISNEY'S

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
A NEW MUSICAL
"THE MOST LUSTY, COULENT,
EYE-POPPING SHOW EVER"
New York Newsday
Now Previews: Opens Tue at 7pm
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 8pm
Duchess 0171 416 5075
(no bag fee) cc 0171 344 4444
420 0000 (bag fee)
Royal Shakespeare Company

THE
HERALD BED
"Peter Whelan's wonderful play... a
love story, a moral thriller and a
courtroom drama"
THRILLING... FAR AND AWAY
THE BEST THING IN THE WEST
END 5 Times
Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
UNTIL 5 JULY

THEATRES

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL
SS cc (big fee) 2845 7 days 0171 494
5000/44 4440/020 0000 Gps 484
5454/415 3122 0000
MISS SAIGON
"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY
OF OUR TIME"
NOW IN ITS
8TH EXTRAORDINARY YEAR
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 8pm
Good seats available for Wed Mat
& some perfs - apply B.O.
FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL
BOOKINGS & PERSONAL
CALLERS
0171 494 5000 (BKG FEB)

FORTUNE 90 & 0171 636
2230/012 9034/45 588
EWAN
HOOPER
JAMES
SIMMONS
Susan Hare
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallat
"The most thrilling and chilling
play for years" D1
Mon-Sat 8pm
Mats 7.30pm Sat 4pm
Pleasant Place 2845

GARRICK 0171 416 5052/012 1950
494 588 (no bag fee)
Groups 0171 416 5454
WINNER OF
19 MAJOR AWARDS
The Royal National Theatre
Production

PIP
DONAGHY
BARRY STANTON
JE PRETEND
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
"THRILLING... MUST BE SEEN"
D1
"TWO HOURS OF
ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY
STUNNING DRAMA" D1
Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 8.00 & 15
Wed mat 2.30

HAYMARKET 930 8500 (no bag fee)
344 4440/020 0000 (no bag fee)
Eves 8 Mats Thur & Sat 8
"THE SEAGULL"
by Anton Chekhov
English version by Tom Stoppard
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow 8pm, Wed
& Thur at 7.30pm, May 17 & 22 mat
2.30pm, May 24 mat 2.30pm, May 25
mat 2.30pm, May 26 at 7.30pm, May 28
mat 2.30pm, May 30 at 7.30pm, May 29
& 31 mat 2.30pm
PRAYERS OF SHERIDAN
by Sebastian Barry
Sun May 18 at 8pm, May 19 at 7.30pm
May 20 at 8pm, May 21 at 7.30pm
May 22 at 8pm, May 23 at 7.30pm
Don't Miss Sun's At The Old Vic

HER MAJESTY'S 2845 494 5000
(big fee) cc 344 4440/020 0000 (big fee)
Gps 484 5454/415 3122/416 5666
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF
THE OPERA
Directed by WORLD PRINCE
NOW BIG TO DEC 97
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 8.00
Apply to Box Office daily for details

LABATT'S APOLLO, 0171 416
6005/020 0000/344 4444 (big fee)
416 6075/416 321/416 5666
CLIFF RICHARD
"Spectacular, stunning" D1
May - Sat 8pm
LAST EVER U.K. PERF 17 MAY!

LONDON PALADIUM 3000
0171 494 5000/44 4440
(C1 46 sat chg) 420 0000
Gps 0171 494 5450/020 0000
LAST WEEK TO SEE
ROBERT LINDSAY
BEST ACTOR IN A MUSICAL
Laurence Olivier Awards
"ROBERT LINDSAY'S FALCON IS
FULL OF CHARM, WARMTH &
GLEEFUL CRIMINALITY" D1
BARNEY HANPPESS RETURNS
TO THE ROLE OF FALCON
FROM 12 MAY

OLIVER
3RD IMPRESSIBLE YEAR
"LIONEL BARRYMORE'S MASTERPIECE
YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE"
5 Times
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
SOME GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE
NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYCEUM 0171 636 1850
080 500 800/020 0000/344 4444 (big fee)
Gps 416 6075
TIM BICE &
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
JESUS CHRIST
SUPERSTAR
"Sends shivers racing down the
spine" D1 Telegraph
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 8
(no bag fee for personal callers at the
Lyceum box office 10am-8pm)
£15 tickets for students aged 16-18
are available in advance
Now booking to September
Some seats avail at door Mon - Thu

LYRIC SHAKESPEARE 0171 494 5000
5045 (big fee) 344 4440/020 0000 (big fee)
Eves 7.45, Wed & Sat 8pm
SIÂN PHILLIPS
simply brilliant as FRAM GEMS
MARLENE
Directed by SEAN MATTHEWS

LYRIC THEATRE
HAMMERSMITH
0171 741 2011
CREEK BY JOWL
OUTCRY
by Tennessee Williams
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
Ltd Season Must End 17 May

NATIONAL THEATRE

BO 0171
928 2252 Gps 0171 620 0741; 2845
cc big fee 0171 420 0000
Please allow extra parking
time because of major roadworks
OLIVER! Mon 7.45
(PREVIEWS) MANA/SADE, Pearl
Woods & 8 women by Gieddy
Shelton, verse adaptation by Adrien
Micheal
LYTTELTON Today 2.15 & 7.30
Mon 7.45 LADY IN THE DARK
a musical play by Moss Hart with lyrics
by Gershwin and music by Kurt
Weill
COTTESLOE Tue 7.00
KING LEAR William Shakespeare

NEW LONDON Dury Lane WC2 BO
0171 420 0072 CC 0171 404 4079
2845 0171 344 4440/020 0000
Gps 0171 413 311/416 5666
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL
AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED
WHILE ALDORUM IS IN
MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT.
Sun open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL.
DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616
2845; 0171 344 4440 (no bag fee)
The Peter Hall Company
7 days a week
by Harley Granville Barker
Tonight at 8pm, Tue 8pm, Wed
& Thur 8pm, May 17 & 22 at
7.30pm, May 24 mat 2.30pm, May 25
mat 2.30pm, May 26 at 7.30pm
29 & 31 at 7.30pm
"Adequately gripping
production grade Hall's first
season off to a blazing
start" S Times
C1 0171 416 5666
Last 6 perfs Today mat 2.30pm, May 17
mat 2.30pm, May 18 at 8pm, May 19 at 7.30pm
May 20 at 8pm, May 21 at 7.30pm
May 22 at 8pm, May 23 at 7.30pm
May 24 mat 2.30pm, May 25
mat 2.30pm, May 26 at 7.30pm, May 29
& 31 mat 2.30pm

ROYAL COURT 0171 585 5000
cc 420 0100 (2845) Downstairs (Duke
of York's St Martin's Lane) EAST IS
EAST by Ayub Khan-Din, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, Sat Mat 2.30pm, Tue 8pm,
Uganda (Antebellum, West 50)
BAILEY/BAIRD by Tony
Murphy, Mon-Sat 7.15, Sat Mat 3.00

SAVOY 0171 585 5000 cc 420
0000 (no bag fee) Gps 420 0000
"OSCAR NOMINATED" and
of Oscar Wilde
SIMON CALLOW
"A contemporary, unimpeachable,
hilarious, absorbing" Times
THE IMPORTANCE OF
BEING OSCAR
by Caryl Churchill
"Scrupulous, intelligent,
compassionate & funny... ONE
OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE
SERIOUS ENTERTAINMENTS IN
LONDON" Sunday Times
"witty, beautiful, compelling
stuff" FT
Eves 8pm Mats Wed & Sat 8pm
LAST 2 WKS OF EXTENDED
SEASON TO 17 MAY

WYNDHAM'S 369 1736/344 4444
BEST COMEDY
Best Standard Awards
BEST COMEDY
Laurence Olivier Awards
"ART"
A new play by Yasmina Reza
Tonight at 8pm, Tomorrow 8pm
"Fly, orator or statue just to see
it" New York Times
Eves 8, Mats Wed & Sat 8

CONCERTS

FINALS CONCERT
4 piano & string ensembles compete for the
INTERNATIONAL PARKHOUSE AWARD*
*Sponsored by
on Monday 12 May at 7.30pm
Wigmore Hall
36 Wigmore Street
London W1H 0BP
Tickets £7 (ES concs)
Tel: 0171 935 2141
Sponsored by
Smith
Smith Systems Engineering

LES MISERABLES
NOW IN ITS 12TH
RECORD-BREAKING YEAR
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Laurencians not admitted
but the interval
will be 15 mins
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL.
DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX 0171 585 1753
(344 4440/020 0000) (big fee)
BEST MUSICAL
Olivier Awards
Plays & Playwrights Awards
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
"Brings the audience to its feet,
and creates the experience" D1
10TH TRIUMPHANT YEAR
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 8pm Sat 4pm
NOW BOOKING UNTIL JAN 98

POCCOCKS THEATRE 0171 369
1734/0171 344 4444
Jenny Eclair
in NELL DUNN'S COMEDY
STEAMING
Eves 8pm, Weds 2.30pm,
Sat 8pm & 8.30pm
NOW PREVIEWING
Running Time 2hrs

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400
First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444
Groups 420 0000
WINNER
BEST CHOREOGRAPHER
BEST NEW MUSICAL
LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS
MARTIN GUERRE
"A BIG MAGNIFICENT EPIC
MUSICAL" D1
"OUT OF THIS WORLD EVENING
OUT" S Times
MARTIN GUERRE
BOULLE & SCHWABER'S
"MUSICAL MASTERPIECE"
In Her Trio
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00
NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 636 5567
First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 Gps
420 0000 Wednesdays 0900 016 000
"NOT FROM BROOKLYN, AND I
MEAN SMOKE, ENOUGH
ENERGY TO ELECTRICITY A
CITY" D1 Mail
GRAMMY AWARD WINNING
MUSICAL

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE
THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER
Directed by Jerry Zuck
"AMERICAN GRAPPLING WITH
WEST SIDE STORY" S
Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed 3pm
REDUCED PRICE THURS MAT
NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998

CONCERTS

INTERNATIONAL PARKHOUSE AWARD*
*Sponsored by
on Monday 12 May at 7.30pm
Wigmore Hall
36 Wigmore Street
London W1H 0BP
Tickets £7 (ES concs)
Tel: 0171 935 2141
Sponsored by
Smith
Smith Systems Engineering

LES MISERABLES
NOW IN ITS 12TH
RECORD-BREAKING YEAR
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Laurencians not admitted
but the interval
will be 15 mins
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL.
DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX 0171 585 1753
(344 4440/020 0000) (big fee)
BEST MUSICAL
Olivier Awards
Plays & Playwrights Awards
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
"Brings the audience to its feet,
and creates the experience" D1
10TH TRIUMPHANT YEAR
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 8pm Sat 4pm
NOW BOOKING UNTIL JAN 98

POCCOCKS THEATRE 0171 369
1734/0171 344 4444
Jenny Eclair
in NELL DUNN'S COMEDY
STEAMING
Eves 8pm, Weds 2.30pm,
Sat 8pm & 8.30pm
NOW PREVIEWING
Running Time 2hrs

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400
First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444
Groups 420 0000
WINNER
BEST CHOREOGRAPHER
BEST NEW MUSICAL
LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS
MARTIN GUERRE
"A BIG MAGNIFICENT EPIC
MUSICAL" D1
"OUT OF THIS WORLD EVENING
OUT" S Times
MARTIN GUERRE
BOULLE & SCHWABER'S
"MUSICAL MASTERPIECE"
In Her Trio
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00
NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 636 5567
First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 Gps
420 0000 Wednesdays 0900 016 000
"NOT FROM BROOKLYN, AND I
MEAN SMOKE, ENOUGH
ENERGY TO ELECTRICITY A
CITY" D1 Mail
GRAMMY AWARD WINNING
MUSICAL

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE
THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER
Directed by Jerry Zuck
"AMERICAN GRAPPLING WITH
WEST SIDE STORY" S
Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed 3pm
REDUCED PRICE THURS MAT
NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998

JEAN MICHEL JARRE
IN CONCERT
THE OXYGEN TOUR
4.11.97 - 4.12.97
S.E.C.C. GLASGOW
WEDNESDAY 4th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0141 287 7777 - 0990 232015 (ext. 100)
NEC ARENA BIRMINGHAM
FRIDAY 6th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0121 720 4133 - 0990 232016 (ext. 100)
NYNEX ARENA MANCHESTER
SATURDAY 7th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0223 0161 930 8000 - 0990 232017 (ext. 100)
WEMBLEY ARENA LONDON
SUNDAY 8th JUNE & MONDAY 9th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0181 900 1234 (24hrs) - 0990 232018 (ext. 100)
NATIONAL ETA COACH TRAVEL
INFORMATION HOTLINE 0990 232849
*SEAT SUBJECT TO BOOKING

JEAN MICHEL JARRE
IN CONCERT
THE OXYGEN TOUR
4.11.97 - 4.12.97

S.E.C.C. GLASGOW
WEDNESDAY 4th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0141 287 7777 - 0990 232015 (ext. 100)
NEC ARENA BIRMINGHAM
FRIDAY 6th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0121 720 4133 - 0990 232016 (ext. 100)
NYNEX ARENA MANCHESTER
SATURDAY 7th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0223 0161 930 8000 - 0990 232017 (ext. 100)
WEMBLEY ARENA LONDON
SUNDAY 8th JUNE & MONDAY 9th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0181 900 1234 (24hrs) - 0990 232018 (ext. 100)
NATIONAL ETA COACH TRAVEL
INFORMATION HOTLINE 0990 232849
*SEAT SUBJECT TO BOOKING

JEAN MICHEL JARRE
IN CONCERT
THE OXYGEN TOUR
4.11.97 - 4.12.97

S.E.C.C. GLASGOW
WEDNESDAY 4th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0141 287 7777 - 0990 232015 (ext. 100)
NEC ARENA BIRMINGHAM
FRIDAY 6th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0121 720 4133 - 0990 232016 (ext. 100)
NYNEX ARENA MANCHESTER
SATURDAY 7th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0223 0161 930 8000 - 0990 232017 (ext. 100)
WEMBLEY ARENA LONDON
SUNDAY 8th JUNE & MONDAY 9th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0181 900 1234 (24hrs) - 0990 232018 (ext. 100)
NATIONAL ETA COACH TRAVEL
INFORMATION HOTLINE 0990 232849
*SEAT SUBJECT TO BOOKING

JEAN MICHEL JARRE
IN CONCERT
THE OXYGEN TOUR
4.11.97 - 4.12.97

S.E.C.C. GLASGOW
WEDNESDAY 4th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0141 287 7777 - 0990 232015 (ext. 100)
NEC ARENA BIRMINGHAM
FRIDAY 6th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0121 720 4133 - 0990 232016 (ext. 100)
NYNEX ARENA MANCHESTER
SATURDAY 7th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0223 0161 930 8000 - 0990 232017 (ext. 100)
WEMBLEY ARENA LONDON
SUNDAY 8th JUNE & MONDAY 9th JUNE
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
0181 900 1234 (24hrs) - 0990 232018 (ext. 100)
NATIONAL ETA COACH TRAVEL
INFORMATION HOTLINE 0990 232849
*SEAT SUBJECT TO BOOKING

JEAN MICHEL JARRE
IN CONCERT
THE OXYGEN TOUR
4.11.97 - 4.12.97

S.E.C.C. GLASGOW
WEDNES

Blair should be glad he is no President

The White House proposes, Downing Street disposes, says Bronwen Maddox

In public, the White House has pronounced itself neutral on Tony Blair's resounding victory, taking care to praise John Major's achievements; in private, the Administration is delighted. When President Clinton called to congratulate Mr Blair, he told him that they shared a "common agenda of purpose". In that, Mr Clinton echoed most of the American media, which has portrayed Tony throughout as a reflection of Bill.

But the first ten days of the Labour Government have confirmed what was already obvious: Tony Blair is not Bill Clinton. He is more radical, he is more left-wing, and he has incomparably more power than an American President to put his ideas into action. Ironically, some of Mr Blair's most inspiring proposals are profoundly American in their spirit of checking the power of government. The question now is whether Labour will carry through those constitutional reforms, or whether the temptations of retaining the full powers of Downing Street will prove irresistible.

In American coverage of the British elections, the cliché that Blair is Clinton was relentless. In part, no doubt, that arose from the task of translating the politics of a far-off country into the language of the American heartland. But many US writers also projected their growing disenchantment with their President onto Mr Blair. Maureen Dowd, the *New York Times* columnist, pronounced Mr Blair "cloned from a clone" while *The New Yorker's* Joe Klein credited him with "magisterial vacuity". That portrayal ignores the profound differences between the two men and the two offices. For a start, Mr Blair achieved a radical transformation of his party; in nudging Democrats towards the centre, Mr Clinton did not.

It is heresy within New Labour to reveal old Labour instincts. By contrast, Vice-President Al Gore, nervous of securing the party's nomination in 2000, is playing to both old and new Democratic galleries. Tellingly, before Mr Blair's reforms secured such a stunning endorsement, he was loaded by many in his own party, a tribute Mr Clinton has not enjoyed. Despite Labour's transformation, Mr Blair remains more left-wing than any imaginable American president. He is committed to reducing income inequality; in America, equality of opportunity is all, and attempts to redistribute the proceeds are seen as an attack on individualism and enterprise.

But most importantly, the Blair-Clinton parallels ignore the differences between the White House and Downing Street. A British Prime Minister has power of which an American President, checked and balanced by Congress, can only dream. With a majority of 179, Mr Blair seems omnipotent. The only rational tactic of a modern American President is to promise all things to all people on the campaign trail — and to continue that play once elected, in the hope of coaxing policy through Congress. A speech condemning truancy may pass without opposition; anything more ambitious requires months of lobbying to build support. It may be in Mr Clinton's nature to try to please all sides, but it is also the requirement of his office. In Britain, a coy silence on future policies proved a useful electoral ploy for Labour. But that is unnecessary in government. Given the decisions looming on Europe and Northern Ireland, for example, it is also scarcely possible. It is particularly startling, then, that Mr Blair has chosen to use his

office to surrender powers of government, beginning with the decision this week to give the Bank of England "operational" control over interest rates. To be sure, there is short-term expediency in the move, given the rising trend of interest rates. But the breathtaking fact remains: within days of assuming power, Mr Blair has surrendered control of monetary policy to an outside body.

He has also announced a ban on foreign funding of political parties, and appears committed to a Freedom of Information Bill, as well as the proposals for devolution and reform of the House of Lords well flagged ahead of the election. At their most ambitious, these proposals are American in spirit. They echo the principles inserted by Thomas Jefferson at the heart of the American Constitution, which granted the legislature and the judiciary power to check the executive, and shared power between central government and the regions. In a sense, that comparison is pious: Mr Blair's reforms are piecemeal, lacking the sweeping coherence of the American Constitution. Given that Labour spent 18 years in the wilderness dreaming of power, though, it is inspiring that Mr Blair can contemplate using the great powers of his office to surrender control.

Yet the past week has also offered new reasons for worry. Labour has embarked on these changes with all the brevity of consultation permitted to a British government. It appears that Mr Blair may now grant MPs a chance to discuss the revamping of Prime Minister's Question Time, as Mr Major pleaded yesterday. But he has offered no such debate on the Bank of England's role, a proposal not even mentioned in his manifesto.

There are many hints, behind the myriad ambiguities, that the instinct to retain control may win the day. In the Bank's case, Labour has not specified the "exceptional circumstances" in which the Treasury can resume control. In industrial policy, Labour will retain independent regulators — but has said that they should be more "accountable" — to government, presumably. Most tellingly, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, in proposing to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law, has shied away from giving the courts the power to say whether the Government is acting legally.

The real tests of whether liberal principles will win through are, of course, Scotland and the House of Lords. In each case, Mr Blair could do worse than to look across the Atlantic for encouragement that power can be divided, as well as for solutions. Clearly, the West Lothian question is contentious, but Britain is not the first country to face the problem: from an American perspective, Britain's agonising over regional representation has an air of reinventing the wheel.

The paralysis which has descended on Mr Clinton's second term is not the best advertisement for the American Constitution. Many in Washington question whether Jefferson's checks and balances have finally brought government to a halt. But Britain is scarcely in danger of reaching that point: as Mr Blair has recognised, the British would benefit from the adoption of more restraints on governmental power.

It is no insult to be called a clone if the prototype is Jefferson. The worry is that when it comes to the crunch, the powers of Britain's elected dictatorship will prove irresistible.

From the Jacobean to Edward Lear, an innocent vision of paradise delights us, says Derwent May

WHEN MY daughter was younger, she used to sing a playground song:

We were going to Ticky-Tucky
We were going to the fair
When we met a chiquachita
With a flower in her hair
Oh shake it baby, shake it
Shake it if you can
From C-I-Sco
C-I-Sco
Shake it if you can
Oh wobble to the bottom
And wobble to the top
And round and round and round
And round until you stop.

It was not quite a nonsense song, because it gave some instructions. The girls stood in a ring, with one in the middle, who in turn showed a flower, put her hands on her hips and shook them, and finally wobbled down to the ground and up again, before all the girls went spinning round. But I marvelled at the way so many nonsensical elements had woven themselves into what had ended as a seamless song — the mysterious land of "Ticky-Tucky" (once Kentucky perhaps), the alluring figure of the chiquachita where you might have expected a dull señorita; the glimmering shadow of San Francisco in the chorus — which the girls probably did not even recognise.

Why should we be interested in more nonsense when so much has been poured out during the election? Well, there is bad and good

Who, or why, or what is nonsense?

nonsense. That surprising scholar Noel Malcolm, world expert on both Thomas Hobbes and Bosnia, has just unearthed a forgotten cache of good nonsense from the 17th century.

His new book, *The Origins of English Nonsense* (HarperCollins, £18), brings back into circulation some splendid nonsense poems written by the "water poet" John Taylor, who in the early 1600s used to ferry actors and writers across the Thames to the playhouses and low life of Southwark, and who won fame with his comic parodies of their "high style" verse.

Some of Taylor's poems are pure nonsense, such as the one actually called "Non-sense" that begins with the wonderful wish "Oh, that my lumps could beat like buttered peas", and then pursues its mad argument with lines such as:

I grant that rainbows being lulled
Slept like a woodkife in a lady's
eyes...

Malcolm argues that there is a clear line of descent from this to the 19th-century nonsense poetry of Edward Lear and Lewis Carroll. But he also believes that nonsense verse always has some kind of literary origin, and that it generally, like Taylor's, begins in parody. Technically he may be right. But I think there is another element in good nonsense. To me, it always seems to spring from a kind of innocent, paradisaical vision.

You find a glimpse of that in my daughter's playground song. In their book *The Language and Lore of Schoolchildren*, Iona and Peter Opie give examples of other children's nonsense or "tangeltalk". I went to the pictures next Tuesday
And took a front seat at the back.
I said to the lady behind me,
I cannot see over your hat.

Such verses, they say, are "characteristic of our native English wit". The essence of this good nonsense verse is that, in a joyous way, it hints at the existence of the difficult,

contingent world and yet proposes a wonderful escape from it. It is not untrammelled fantasy. The realm of difficulty is always there to be coped with.

On a quite simple level, the nonsense rhymester has to cope with the fact that only a certain number of words exist and that they have to be pronounced in a certain way. In an essay called *Notes on the Comic*, W.H. Auden quotes Lear's limetick:

There was an Old Man of
Whitchaven
Who danced a quadrille with a
raven
... and observes that "had the old gentleman lived in Ceylon, he would have had to dance with a swan". In either case, the rhyming lines turn the inescapably awkward facts of the sounds of language into a triumph of ingenuity and fun. More generally, the characters in nonsense poems — who are generally enjoying themselves — are nevertheless always

having to face or dodge reality. In one of the greatest of all paradisaical nonsense poems, Lear's Owl and Pussy-Cat need a stout boat, money and a marriage licence before they can "dance by the light of the moon, the moon." It is not all plain sailing for them.

Incidentally, thinking of the "mince and slices of quince" that made up the Owl's and the Pussy-Cat's wedding feast, it is noticeable that a spectacular food — very much a thing of paradise — has always featured in good nonsense.

Taylor himself offers a "Bill of Fare" including "one phoenix in white broth" and "a lobster fried in steaks", and in an anonymous poem of the period:

The man in the moon made Christmas pies
And bade the seven stars to eat good cheer

We can trace a similar vision in such diverse works of art as Heath Robinson's elaborate machines for eating peas, and even the cucumber-sandwich world of Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Noel Malcolm identifies one particular object of satirical parody in some of Taylor's poems as "fustian" — the almost meaningless use of fine language just to impress, a notable element in the bad nonsense of his time.

We, too, have had enough fustian lately. Good nonsense awaits, with its innocent, restorative happiness.

A democratic titan unbound

Once London has an elected mayor, every city in Britain will want one

Readers of *The Times* and other daily papers will be ignorant of the most radical proposal yet to emerge from the Blair Government. It was put forward, unpublished, at the election and passed by Cabinet on Thursday, to be included in the Queen's Speech. The proposal could upheave a corner of British democracy, but received not an inch of notice as it concerned local government. I refer to an elected mayor for London.

British politics keeps local government below stairs. A thousand times more column inches are given to the inanities of Prime Minister's questions than to the one third of public administration that is local. Cities and counties are treated as ridiculous, parochial and corrupt. Their participants are second-rate. Their democracy is merely a cumbersome opinion poll. We find foreign cities fascinating. Mayor Giuliani's war on crime in New York fills the British press. We read of Barcelona's revival under Mayor Mariagall. When Jacques Chirac ran as the first directly-elected mayor of Paris, doubling the previous turnover, he received blanket coverage in Britain. More French citizens can now name their

local Labour leaders who saw a mayor as a threat to rule by party machine. That opposition has been overcome by the personal commitment of Mr Blair. The proposal is now on course, albeit with the hesitation of an unnecessary referendum. The Queen's Speech will pledge a referendum on a London-wide assembly and elected mayor, to be held next May. Meanwhile, a Green Paper on the mayorality and its relationship with the assembly will be published this summer, followed by a White Paper.

Assuming referendum approval, a full London government Bill will be presented in autumn 1998 and should be passed the following spring. The first date for a mayoral election would thus be May 1999, or more probably a year later. This is a small-scale reform for an innovation that recent polls suggest has the support of 60-80 per cent of London's population. But a slow-baked loaf is better than no loaf at all. We take heart.

The cause is winning, but not yet won. A feature of British democracy noted by observers since de Tocqueville is that prominent citizens play little part in the leadership of their community, yet despise those who do. They put all their constitutional eggs in the House of Commons basket and, when the eggs rot, turn not to democracy but to boards, quangos, regulators and inspectors. Thus we have "government by committees" and "the politics of London, Birmingham or Manchester. It takes a riot or a serial killer to get a British journalist out of SW1.

I have no doubt of the reason. Foreign cities have elected mayors. They have individuals whose names are known nationally and internationally from the swirl of publicity that surrounds their election. When Mr Chirac took over Paris, he was exposed and rendered accountable not as a party but as a person. He had to deliver or lose his job. He put city workers into overalls and swept the city, its roads and its transport system, clean. Mr Giuliani tackled New York crime in the same spirit. Pages of *The New York Times* are daily devoted to his doings.

Those who have been lobbying for an elected mayor for London have been forcefully opposed by going in to run failing services, rather than find a way of making that service more publicly accountable. This week we cheered when the unelected Bank of England was freed from the supposedly outrageous shackles of democracy, and left to form economic policy in the privacy of a professional enclave. Recent debates on a mayorality have revealed a horror among many Labour, Tory and Liberal Democrat politicians that mayors might mean corrupt politics and administrative indiscipline, dominated by maverick personalities. (How Westminster seeks motives in the eyes of others.) Mayor Barry of Washington is always cited, as if all foreign mayors were corrupt and all British councillors clean. An American friend, gazing out over the London skyline, remarked that a corrupt mayor could hardly do



Master of Manhattan: pages of *The New York Times* are devoted daily to Mayor Giuliani's efforts

worse than an obviously corrupt planning system. But nobody in my experience has a greater aversion to democracy than the British Establishment. A fear of mayors is the rebirth of the aristocratic fear of the franchise, the fear of the rogue elephant, of the mob.

Britain at present is hardly riddled with an excess of democracy. A mayorality properly structured will not undermine local government nor threaten the privileges of too many politicians. I would give mayors only limited resources and confine their powers to representing their towns and cities and heading the executive machine. (There are dozens of "weak" or "strong" mayoral models to choose from, gathered by Gerry Stoker for the Royal Institute of Public Administration.) The mayor's influence would derive from being the focus of debate on a city's future and the embodiment of its identity. A mayoral election is an all-singing-and-dancing festival of democracy, a celebration of what J.K. Galbraith calls "the civic household".

Such a festival might bring some exotic characters on stage, and some able ones at present deterred from elected office by having to serve a party apprenticeship. Thus if Lord Gower wants to finance London's arts, let him stand for mayor. If Stephen Norris wants to run London transport, let him

stand for mayor. If Tony Banks wants to reorder London sport, let him stand for mayor. If Nick Raynsford, the new junior minister for London, wants that title, let him seek election on that ticket. Other hats may soon be sailing towards the ring, from David Mellor, Jeffrey Archer, Michael Cassidy, possibly Richard Branson. Hardly a day passes without someone murmuring that they might stand.

I can sense the shudder through the conventional parties. Surely the essence of British party politics, they say, is to make government proof against such mavericks. But they cannot have it both ways. If the mayorality is to be impotent, why be so fastidious about who stands for it? If the mayorality is to have more substantial powers, as over transport and police, good people should be encouraged to stand, and their accountability should be rigorous. But the problem for the White Paper is not how to get good people to stand, but how to control the numbers. There will have to be a two-stage process. This will be the hustings equivalent of the London Marathon.

What is exhilarating about civic elections in America or France is the vitality they give to politics as a whole. They are a new mode of public activity, detached or at least semi-detached from formal parties. In Britain they would attract attention from the cardboard ted-

um of the House of Commons and its tired rituals. The Greater London Council, abolished by Margaret Thatcher and Kenneth Baker, indeed became a monster. But it was alive. When the democratic baby was gleefully tossed out with the G.L.C. bathwater, public discussion about the future of the capital came to a halt. Londoners were never asked if they wanted a new Tube, or a better Thames, or more pedestrian streets. They got what they were given.

Central government, said Balzac, is "a giant power welded by pygmies". A mayorality would have pygmy power, but it would be welded by a democratic giant. A titular leader of London would have a personal guarantee of possibly two to three millions votes, more than any one individual in Britain. Once such a mayor is on the statutory horizon, every city and town in Britain will want one. In which case, I cannot see what is to stop them choosing their mayors by direct franchise without the permission of central government. They should just do it. Here is the basis for a truly populist revolution, brightest feather in Mr Blair's radical cap. Perhaps by the millennium he might be fed up with Downing Street. Perhaps he might stand for a nobler office of his own creation.

Sensitive soul

LABOUR'S massed ranks are clearing their diaries for June 4 when Peter Mandelson, the new minister without portfolio, will be shown on BBC2 unbending himself to the psychologist Oliver James. Mandelson, whose icy carapace loomed over the recent election campaign, has already



Human: Mandelson

recorded the 20-minute interview in which he speaks emotionally of his childhood.

"We were flabbergasted that he agreed to the interview," says James, whose other interviewees in the series, called *The Chair*, are an eclectic bunch including the hypnotist Paul McKenna, the comedian Julian Clary and Patsy Palmer. Bianca in *EastEnders*.

Mandelson speaks of his earliest experience of Downing Street, when as a boy he ate smoked salmon and asparagus on the terrace of No 10 while watching the Trooping the Colour with his mother's father, Herbert Morrison, then a Labour Cabinet Minister.

He credits his mother with his early political education and says she was "softly spoken but with tremendous steel". Though fond of his father, he blames him and others of his generation for the rise of Hitler.

across every human. Prick him and he bleeds."

Extra bouquets for Susan Patterson, the American soprano playing Violetta in the English National Opera's revival of *La Traviata*. Last week, she twisted her ankle during rehearsals and even by the time of the dress rehearsal was still on crutches. Several ice-packs later,



I think one knows all about girl power already

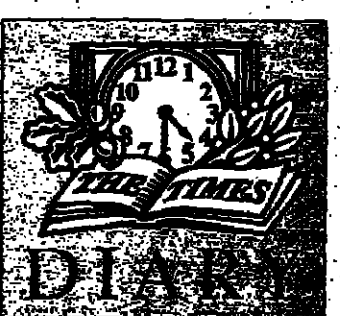
she decided to brave it and performed at Thursday's opening night, revealing her heavily bandaged right ankle only when bouncing off her deathbed in her nighttime for the curtain call.

Word war

LUST and professional acrimony fill the pages of *Handsome Is: Adventures with Saul Bellow*, by the Nobel Laureate's former agent Harriet Wasserman. The book, which is soon to be published in America, tells of an early nocturnal encounter between Wasserman and her most famous client.

When they first met, the pair spent a night together during which, according to Wasserman, she kept asking permission to touch the author "as if he were a museum object d'art". The whole night was a "comic nightmare", writes Wasserman, a view shared by Bellow, who said "he hadn't had a date like that since under the Coney Island boardwalk when he was in high school."

Wasserman subsequently lost Bellow to Martin Amis's agent, Andrew "The Jackal" Wylie.



Wasserman tells of how, when asked by Wylie's lawyer to meet her rival, she replied: "I would rather meet you at the 42nd Street and 8th Avenue subway and clean the men's room toilet bowl with my tongue". No resentment then.

Here to help

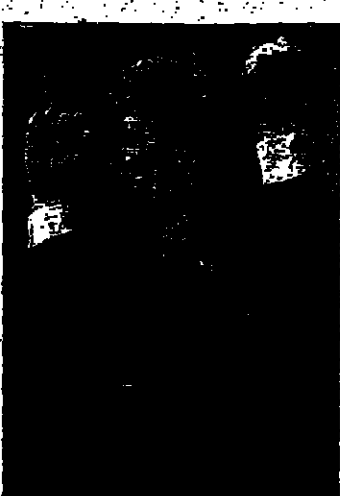
THERE is a touch of the Sweeney about the latest venture of Sir Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police from 1987-93. He has set up a security company called Capital Eye, slogan "Keeping an eye out for you". Imbert advocates a "more holistic approach" to security and promises advice on

hostage situations among others. "Then, in his best crime-fighter manner, he declares: 'The challenge criminals pose to business, crisis planning and strategy are numerous — and we can help.' Cue grainy freeze-frames and shots of whizzing Cortinas.

History, at least, is on the side of Michael Howard in his campaign for the Tory leadership. His HQ is in Jonathan Aitken's house at No. 8 Lord North Street. One of the few London houses to contain a bathroom, it used to belong to Brendan Bracken, Churchill's close friend, and was where the anti-apartheid within the Tory party plotted Chamberlain's fall and Churchill's ascent at the beginning of the Second World War.

True Blue

TONY BANKS, the new Minister for Sport, has chosen not to sit in the Royal Box on FA Cup day so that he can be down in the stands with his fellow Chelsea supporters. "I don't think Her Majesty would appreciate it if I start shouting with my hands in the air when Chelsea



Good sport: Banks

score," says Banks, a staunch republican, who insists he has paid for his ticket. And what of other prominent Chelsea supporters from the House? "I understand John Major is not going," said Banks. "He thinks he is a bit of a first. But with the luck he's had lately his jinx might have lifted."

P.H.S

OBITUARIES

BRIAN WENHAM

Brian Wenham, Managing Director BBC Radio, 1965-67, and Director of Programmes, BBC TV, 1963-65, died from a heart attack on May 8 aged 68. He was born on February 7, 1927.

Sometimes too sardonic for his own good, Brian Wenham was one of the ablest figures in British broadcasting. He is credited with transforming the fortunes of BBC2, of which he was controller from 1973 to 1982, by introducing snooker to the small screen, and in the 1970s and 1980s he was frequently spoken of as a future BBC Director-General. Had promotion within the BBC continued to move at its traditional measured pace, the job would almost certainly have been his. The governor's coup of January 1987, which dislodged Alastair Milne from the D-G's chair, however, adversely affected Wenham's own prospects.

Although he continued for a period to run what he persisted in calling "the wireless", the appointment of Michael Checkland as Milne's successor effectively put an end to his BBC ambitions. When Michael Grade was brought back from Hollywood to fill his own old job as director of programmes at Television Centre — with what seemed at the time to be the clear intention to succeed Bill Cotton as managing director of BBC Television — Wenham recognised that the time had come to resign. He put in to become Jeremy Isaacs's successor at Channel Four in 1987 and hoped also to be appointed director of the British Film Institute in 1988.

But he was disappointed in both aspirations and the last decade of his life was spent largely as an adviser and consultant on broadcasting. He became a non-executive director of Carlton Television, which took over the London weekday franchise from Thames at the beginning of 1993, and — as one of the more intelligent and articulate spokesmen within the industry — was frequently to be seen and heard at media seminars and conferences. He was also a graceful writer and, as well



as editing, and writing a perceptive essay in a book called *The Third Age of Broadcasting* (1982), for some time contributed a fortnightly broadcasting commentary to *The Times*.

Brian George Wenham came from no grand background and was educated at the Royal Masonic School, Bushey, and at St John's College, Oxford, where he took a brilliant first in Modern History. The first seven years of his television life were spent at ITN, where he worked for a period in the parliamentary lobby and was something of a protégé of Alastair Burnet. At the same time he cut his teeth as a print journalist, serving as the London correspondent for the *Washington Weekly*, *The New Republic*.

It was not until 1969, when he was already 32, that he was

recruited by the BBC to become editor of what was then still very much its flagship current affairs programme, *Panorama*. Such talent-rising on the part of the corporation from ITV had not invariably worked well in the past but in Wenham's case it proved a triumphant success.

Within two years, at a time of some political turbulence, he was promoted to be head of the BBC TV's current affairs group, a post he was to hold during the reigns of both the Heath and the Wilson Governments for the next seven years. It was, as his predecessor had discovered, a difficult and exposed position, especially when it came to relations with the political parties, but Wenham handled it with great aplomb — no doubt partly because he was a highly political animal himself.

It was, therefore, something of a mystery that promotion did not come earlier. When it did arrive, however, it came largely thanks to the newly anointed D-G, Alastair Milne.

Not only was that danger avoided: the BBC came out with a remarkably clean bill of health — a marked contrast to its treatment at the hands of the Annan Committee of 1977. Within the corporation — and not least on the board of governors — a good deal of the credit for this was rightly accorded to Wenham, who had not only written all the BBC's submissions but had also organised a skilful press campaign designed to make the case against taking advertising.

But in his moment of triumph Wenham was nearer the end of his BBC career than he can have thought. The savage sacking of Alastair

Wenham's patron and champion and it was when he asked the highly successful controller of BBC2 to become his assistant director-general, with responsibility for all the corporation's journalism, that the fate of the BBC in the 1980s was effectively sealed. With uncharacteristic churlishness Wenham dug his toes in and refused to take the job. If he, with his highly developed political antennae, had been there to guard the D-G's back, it is perfectly possible that the various troubles that later developed could have been averted.

In the short term, however, it looked as if Wenham — from his own point of view — had made the right decision. The ill-fated move of Bill Cotton to take charge of the BBC's abortive venture into satellite broadcasting created a vacancy in the post of director of television programmes and the controller of BBC2 was chosen to fill it. This brought him, for the first time, a seat on the BBC's board of management and for a time all seemed set fair for his eventual succession to the BBC's top job.

If anything, his prospects were enhanced by a piece of special responsibility that he was again given by Milne. He was charged with orchestrating the BBC's response to the Peacock Committee on Financing the BBC that Margaret Thatcher had set up with a view — most commentators suspected — of getting the corporation in future to finance itself by advertising.

Not only was that danger avoided: the BBC came out with a remarkably clean bill of health — a marked contrast to its treatment at the hands of the Annan Committee of 1977. Within the corporation — and not least on the board of governors — a good deal of the credit for this was rightly accorded to Wenham, who had not only written all the BBC's submissions but had also organised a skilful press campaign designed to make the case against taking advertising.

But in his moment of triumph Wenham was nearer the end of his BBC career than he can have thought. The savage sacking of Alastair

Milne in January 1987 meant that all bets were off in terms of an ordered succession. Although Wenham might have been thought to be sitting pretty as managing director of BBC Radio, the appointment of Michael Checkland to succeed Milne had been followed by the bringing in from outside of an entirely new figure to serve as deputy Director-General and to take both managerial and editorial control of all the corporation's news and current affairs output.

From the moment that John Birt arrived in Broadcasting House an entirely new culture began to be created and Wenham was probably right to recognise that he was unlikely to have any rewarding or fulfilling place within it. At the age of 50 he resigned with dignity in the summer of 1987, though there were to remain many who mourned the loss of his exceptional ability and talents in what was to prove a very rough period in the corporation's history.

Nothing became Wenham more than the fortune which he endured the disappointments of the last ten years of his life. He remained cheerful and never gave way to repining or recrimination. He was a man of many interests — a great lover of opera and the theatre and was beginning to develop a keen interest in painting. He was a director of Renaissance Films and of English Touring Opera, as well as playing a leading part in the affairs of the Institute of Contemporary Arts.

He possessed a host of friends — to most of whom he acted as the central point of contact in a group that in their twenties had been known irreverently as "the playmates". At the same time there was always a sense of detachment about him — perhaps the result of his knowledge that his father had died young of a heart attack and that this had very nearly been paralleled in his own case by his survival from one when he was merely in his mid-thirties.

His family life was always warm and close. He married in 1966 Elizabeth ("Liz") Woolley and she and their two daughters survive him.

ERIC OGDEN



Eric Ogden, Labour MP for Liverpool, West Derby, 1964-81, and Social Democratic Party MP for the same constituency, 1981-83, died from lung cancer on May 5 aged 73. He was born on August 23, 1923.

ERIC OGDEN was a pugnacious ex-miner whose moderate views exposed him to a left-wing coup in his Liverpool constituency in 1981. When he was deselected he left with a typical parting shot: "I will do much to remain a Member of Parliament but the only crawling I ever did was in a two-foot seam of coal at Bradford Colliery and I have no intention of crawling to anybody on the surface."

He joined the SDP soon afterwards, took its whip in the Commons, fought his seat for his new party at the 1983 election and was soundly defeated by the Labour candidate.

Ten days ago, however, Ogden returned to Labour. Although terminally ill he left his Winchmore Hill home to vote in the Enfield Southgate constituency — one of the votes which helped to defeat Michael Portillo. He felt the Blair-led party was one which he could support again.

Before he died he asked about only one other result. He wanted to know if his close friend, Sir Michael Shersby, had held Uxbridge. He was happy to hear that Shersby was one of the Conservative survivors but could not know that Shersby himself would die two days later.

Ogden was born at Middleton, Lancashire, and began his education at the town's Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School before going on to Leigh Technical College and Wigan Mining College. He served in the Merchant Navy for most of the war and, though he was subsequently identified largely with the National Union of Mineworkers, who sponsored him in his constituency, his first trade union was, in fact, the Radio Officers' Union.

In 1964 he was chosen to fight Liverpool, West Derby, which surprisingly had been Conservative-held for election after election. Housing development and the erosion of the Orange Protestant vote had combined, though, to make it a natural target for Labour, and Ogden had little difficulty in overturning the Tory majority.

He was an active Member in the House, specialising in shipping, Commonwealth affairs and, of course, employ-

ment on Merseyside. In the last phase of the first Wilson Government he became parliamentary private secretary to his fellow-minister, Roy Mason (now Lord Mason of Barnsley) then President of the Board of Trade.

Trouble with his constituency first surfaced during the Common Market referendum in 1975. Ogden wanted Britain to remain in Europe while his management committee, undoubtedly Marxist-led, campaigned actively for withdrawal.

Relations never recovered after this and, although Ogden survived to hold his seat at the 1979 election, it was obvious that serious efforts were being made to get rid of him. In June 1981, this succeeded when he was deselected and a left-wing candidate was chosen as his successor. Ogden appealed to his party's National Executive Committee and even threatened to precipitate a by-election. But by the autumn he had decided to leave Labour and join the SDP, claiming that Labour's policies had become completely different from those on which he had stood at the previous election.

He duly fought the 1983 election as an SDP candidate but was overwhelmed by the present West Derby MP, Robert Wareing. Ogden came in a bad third, with 7,849 votes behind the Conservative with 12,862 and Wareing who amassed 23,905.

Ogden made no attempt to re-enter the House. In political retirement he did some work as a consultant. As an enthusiastic philatelist, he became a member of the Royal Mail Stamps Advisory Committee. His main interest, however, was foreign affairs: in this sphere he concentrated on the Falkland Islands and Yugoslavia. He had been with Shersby on a famous visit to the Falklands in 1981 and their work for the islands continued until their respective deaths. Ogden, in particular, harassed the Foreign Office to sustain support of the islanders' interests.

He also paid an annual visit to Yugoslavia, taking with him food and medical supplies until, in the wake of the country's break-up, the horrors perpetrated there succeeded in curbing even his admiration for the former socialist state's peoples.

He was twice married. By his first wife, now dead, he had one son. His second wife, Marjorie, survives him with their two sons and two stepdaughters by her previous marriage.

PRINCE NAPOLEÓN



Prince Napoléon with his wife and younger son Jérôme, Farnborough Abbey, 1973

Louis Bonaparte, Prince Napoléon, died in Switzerland on May 3 aged 83. He was born in Brussels on January 23, 1914.

A PASSIONATE patriot and anti-Fascist, Louis Bonaparte fought for France with great bravery, although he was officially banned from entering the country throughout his early life.

The great-great nephew of Napoleon I, Louis Jérôme Victor-Emanuel Léopold Marie Bonaparte became head of the imperial house in 1926, after the death of his father, Prince Victor, the grandson of Napoleon's younger brother, Jérôme. His mother was Princess Clémentine, daughter of King Léopold II of Belgium.

From his birth, Louis Bonaparte was exiled from France under the 1886 law forbidding male descendants of former

ruling families from entering the country. He spent his early years in Belgium and Britain, where he lived as a boy in Farnborough with Empress Eugénie, widow of Emperor Napoleon III.

Prince Napoléon later settled in Switzerland, attending the universities ofusanne and Louvain, where he studied political science and economics. In 1939 under the pseudonym Louis Blanchard and claiming Swiss nationality, he enlisted with the French Foreign Legion and saw action in North Africa.

Demobilised in 1941, Prince Napoléon returned to Switzerland and promptly contacted the French and Belgian Resistance movements. A year later, while attempting to cross the Pyrenees with three companions in a bid to join the Free French forces in Algeria, he was arrested by the occupying forces, handed over to the Gestapo and imprisoned for several months, first in the great fortress of Hâ at Bordeaux, and later at Fresnes.

The intervention of the Italian royal family helped to secure his release and the imperial pretender, now using the alias Louis Montier, immediately joined the O.R.A. Resistance group operating in the Indre region of central France.

In August 1944, he was badly wounded during a fierce skirmish with the enemy, in which all six other members of his patrol were killed, including his cousin Prince Murat. In 1946 General de Gaulle, commending Prince Napo-

léon's "contempt for danger", made him a Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur and unofficially permitted him to remain in France. The Prince lived under yet another name, Comte de Montfort, until France's law of exile was abolished on June 24, 1980.

In later years Prince Napoléon, who was awarded the Croix de Guerre for his wartime bravery, participated in the economic and industrial development of the former Belgian Congo and Chad, while also devoting much time to his own model agricultural estate in Switzerland.

A vigorous and proud defender of the Napoleonic cultural heritage, Prince Napoléon studiously (and sensibly) avoided political pronouncements, with one notable exception. In 1969, following General de Gaulle's resignation, the prince wrote a newspaper article informing his compatriots that he was prepared to take up any role for the nation, if a majority so desired it.

A man of old-fashioned chivalry and imposing height, the prince was an enthusiast for an expert skier, diver and mountaineer. In 1979 he generously donated the manuscripts and artworks handed down to him from Napoleon I, Napoleon III and Empress Eugénie, to the French nation.

Prince Napoléon married Alix de Foresta, a Provençal aristocrat, in 1949. He is survived by her and by their two sons and their two daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

SERVICES Let the experts help you to know your car better. Visit Auto Service, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.	TICKETS FOR SALE NOVEL ABOUT THE LINDBERG CASE 1000 copies available. Price £1.00 each.	NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS It is illegal to buy or sell non-decorative tickets for Wimbledon.	ANNOUNCEMENTS ANIMALS IN NEED Please help us find homes for the animals in need.
WANTED CHIEF FLOWER GROWER 1000 copies available. Price £1.00 each.	FOR SALE A BIRTHDAY... 1000 copies available. Price £1.00 each.	FLATSHARE 1000 copies available. Price £1.00 each.	TRUSTEE ACTS 1000 copies available. Price £1.00 each.
COURT & SOCIAL FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES Please send Court & Social announcements by post to: Mrs J. Newman, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 3JX.	HEALTH & BEAUTY 1000 copies available. Price £1.00 each.	DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS 1000 copies available. Price £1.00 each.	CHARGE AGAINST A VICAR On Friday Lord Penzance, official principal, sat in the Chancery Court, York, and heard the case of William Stobart v. Rev. Benjamin Centum Kenton, Vicar of All Saints, Monkwearmouth.

CHARGE AGAINST A VICAR

On Friday Lord Penzance, official principal, sat in the Chancery Court, York, and heard the case of William Stobart v. Rev. Benjamin Centum Kenton, Vicar of All Saints, Monkwearmouth. The counsel for the promoter was Mr. F.H. Jeune; the defendant was unrepresented. The articles of objection against the defendant were that, contrary to the conditions of his order, he, on the 23d of August, 1879, was much intoxicated; that twice on the 20th of July, 1879, he, without lawful excuse, neglected and omitted to perform Divine service in his church; that he repeated this offence on several subsequent occasions; and that on the 10th of July he neglected to publish on the three Sundays next ensuing the banns of marriage between William Abbs and Ellen Selina Crump, the usual fees having been paid. It was set forth that by reason of this neglect there existed great scandal and evil report concerning him and that he had caused great scandal in the House of God. In the year 1874 the defendant was before the same Court for a similar offence, when, the charge being proved, he was suspended for three years, which suspension was ordered not to be relaxed until he was able to produce a certificate of good behaviour signed by three

ON THIS DAY

May 10, 1880

This clergyman "had caused great scandal in the House of God by being drunk in the street, failing to publish banns of marriage, and to perform divine service in his church. He was suspended more than once but the clerical authorities did not seem over-anxious to be rid of him for good."

benefited clergymen in the diocese of Durham. Mr. Jeune said the defendant was not reinstated until 1879 and within a few months he was guilty of the charges now brought against him. Mr. Jeune said that up to the present time the defendant's church had been almost entirely neglected and, excepting on one or two occasions when the defendant had money to draw, he had not been near the church since the 6th of November last. He asked that the defendant might now be more seriously dealt with: though he was instructed from the Bishop of Durham not to press for total deprivation, Lord Penzance referred to

the defendant's suspension in the year 1874, and said that after its expiration he failed to produce a certificate from three clergymen to the effect that he had during his suspension been of irreproachable conduct. He, however, did in 1879 apply to his Lordship to be reinstated. He alleged that he had great difficulty in obtaining the necessary certificate and that this difficulty was mainly the result of local circumstances and animus against him. He, however, produced testimony from persons who were not clergymen to which he (Lord Penzance) gave credence, and upon which he felt satisfied that the defendant had carried out the requirements of the Court, and making a broad view of the case, he in March, 1879, reinstated the defendant. Now it appeared that three months after that he was drunk again in the streets of his parish, and creating a public scandal. The defendant by his failure to answer the charge, which had been in elaborate form served upon him, acknowledged his drunkenness and ecclesiastical neglect, and must therefore be punished for his offence. As he had already been suspended three years, that punishment must be increased and he must now be further suspended for four years and then furnish the necessary certificate from three clergymen of his diocese as in his satisfactory conduct.

INSIDE
SECTION

2
TODAY

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

WORKING WEEK

Italian graduate
of the English
school of law
PAGE 29



BUSINESS

Graham Searjeant
on the trail
of fool's gold
PAGE 31



SPORT

Leicester seek
to combat
Sale's drive
PAGES 44-45

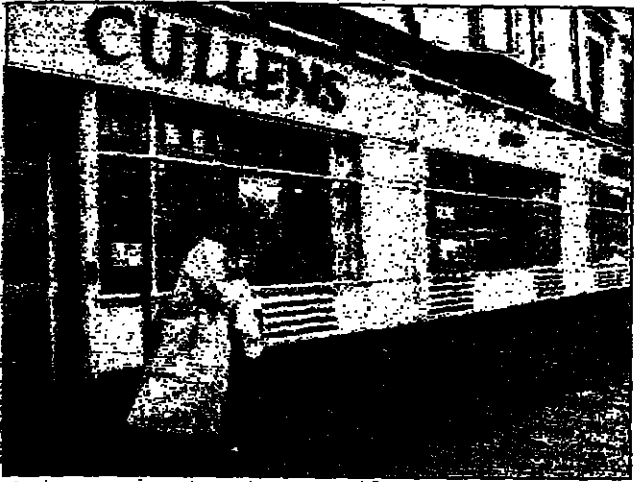
WEEKEND
SPORTING
FIXTURES

PAGE
49

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY MAY 10 1997

Patels put Cullens in their shopping basket



BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

CULLENS, the grocery chain founded 121 years ago, is to be taken over by three Asian businessmen who emigrated to Britain from East Africa less than 20 years ago.

Jitu Patel, who arrived from Zambia in 1978, and his partners, Nareesh and Mahesh Patel, who are brothers and emigrated from Kenya 10 years ago, already own the London-based Europa Foods and Haris chains of convenience stores.

Yesterday their holding company, Adminstore, made a £7.4 million recommended cash offer for Cullens. The chain, now comprised of only 21 stores, was once larger than J Sainsbury. After a century of growth, Cullens went into rapid decline in the 1970s due to the huge expansion of the big supermarkets and was transformed into a convenience chain in the 1980s.

Jitu Patel, an accountant in his mid-forties, said that when he started out he intended to build up a chain of about 12 shops. He began with a newsagent in Burnt Oak, North London, and then started buying branches of Europa Foods in the early 1980s from the chain's founder, Albert Vince, eventually taking full control.

When Jitu Patel is not working, he spends much of his time in Neasden at the newly built Hindu temple, one of the largest in the world. His faith led to his success, he says. "This faith gives you immense energy and courage from within to go ahead," he said last year.

Turnover at Adminstore, which controls 38 Europa and Haris stores, was £63.6 million last year. In contrast, Cullens turned over £6.1 million. The offer values Cullens at 28p a share. Adminstore will borrow £4.5 million from Barclays to help to finance the deal.

A spokesman for Europa Foods said that Cullens stores would retain their name and identity. There were no plans to take a stock market listing for the enlarged group.

The Cullens name will survive after the £7.4 million deal in which Jitu Patel, above, and partners added the 121-year-old chain to their Europa Foods stores

Shares power to record as the pound slides

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE London stock market hit another record high yesterday as bumper trading in shares continued in the wake of Labour's landslide election victory.

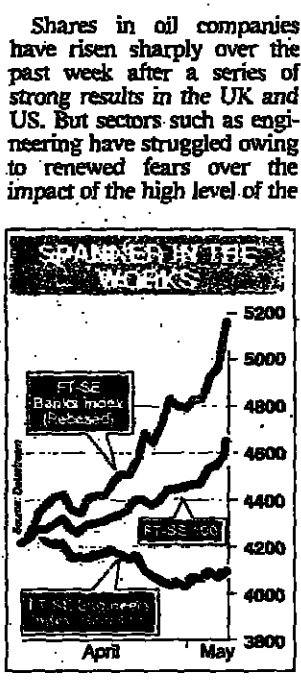
Optimism about the interest rate outlook in Britain and America encouraged unusually heavy demand for financial shares, lifting the FT-SE 100 above 4,600 for the first time with almost one billion shares traded. But the pound dropped sharply for the second day running as traders acted on a growing belief that the Government intends to bring sterling lower.

The FT-SE 100 closed up 50.5 at 4,630.9, after another 50-point rise on Wall Street overnight. The index has risen by a total of 4 per cent this week. Traders said that a squeeze on shares in the banking sector had again led the market higher. Institutions have

been left underweight because of the imminent flotation of building societies such as the Halifax, Woolwich and Northern Rock which greatly increases the size of the quoted banking sector. But shares in the former mutuals will initially be concentrated in the hands of building society members, forcing the institutions to look to buy elsewhere in the sector.

Shares in Royal Bank of Scotland also benefited from takeover speculation, closing up 33p at 635.5p. Other major winners were NatWest, which rose 10.5p to 801.5p and Barclays, up 45p to £125.4p.

But analysts do not expect the latest rally in the market to continue as gains have been limited to a relatively small number of sectors. In contrast, the wider FT-SE 250 managed a rise of only 15.8 points to close at 4,526.2.



Shares in oil companies have risen sharply over the past week after a series of strong results in the UK and US. But sectors such as engineering have struggled owing to renewed fears over the impact of the high level of the

pound, while utility shares have sagged over continuing uncertainty surrounding the imposition of the windfall tax. There is also concern about the possible corporation tax rises in Labour's mini-Budget.

The pound fell another two and half pence to close at DM2.7421, while sterling's trade weighted index lost nearly a point to close at 98.0. The pound also lost a little ground against the dollar, falling from \$1.6205 to \$1.6193, although the dollar itself remained under pressure from the mark and the yen.

The pound has slumped nearly 10 pence since hitting a post-ERM record on Tuesday amid enthusiasm for the Bank of England reform announced by the Labour administration. Traders said rumours that Labour was considering re-entering the European exchange-rate

mechanism at DM2.50 were still being used as a selling point, although most analysts view re-entry as unlikely. The market has interpreted the speculation as a reminder that Labour would like to see sterling lower and could be preparing for tax rises to help take the strain off interest rates.

The pound has also suffered from the decline in the dollar that followed positive inflation comments overnight by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank. He said interest rates would need to rise if demand growth in the US did not slow but that conditions are different to 1994 when rates rose substantially. This was taken as an indication that US rates are unlikely to rise by more than a quarter point in the near future.

Stock market, page 30

WEEKEND MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE
NEWS AND ADVICE

33 Anne Ashworth on the annuity lottery

31 What higher base rates mean for borrowers

32 How the Budget could change your family tax bill

INVESTMENT
36 Boom or bust? Where will Wall Street go next?

PENSIONS
37 Peps or pensions? The retirement savings riddle

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100 4630.9 (+50.5)
Yield 3.50% (+19.85)
FTSE All share 2208.07 (+19.85)
Nikkei 19802.78 (+259.03)
New York 7111.74 (+24.85)
Dow Jones 817.78 (+2.50)
S&P Composite 117.78 (+0.25)

US DOLLAR

Federal Funds 5.75% (51.4%)
Long Bond 9.0% (96.4%)
Yield 6.92% (6.9%)

EURO DOLLAR

3-month Interbank 6.75% (6.7%)
Libor 6.75% (6.7%)
Future (Jun) 114.25 (113.75)

STERLING

New York 1.6210* (1.6177)
London 1.6194 (1.6207)
DM 2.7428 (2.7672)
FF 9.2484 (9.3380)
Sfr 2.3130 (2.3370)
Yen 197.08 (200.05)
£ Index 98.0 (98.6)

US DOLLAR

London 1.6265* (1.7030)
DM 5.9225* (5.7675)
FF 1.6230* (1.4450)
Yen 191.25* (198.07)
£ Index 104.1 (104.6)

Tokyo close Yen 122.43

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul) \$18.75 (\$18.05)

GOLD

London close \$348.55 (\$349.80)

* denotes midday trading price

Betty Maxwell in pension challenge

BY JASON NISSE

KEVIN MAXWELL is to press the trustees of the Mirror Group pension scheme later this month to pay the £311,000-a-year pension that his mother, Betty, claims is owed to her by the fund.

Last year, Mr Maxwell was cleared of charges relating to the disappearance of £450 million from the pension funds of the former Maxwell empire. After Mr Maxwell's acquittal, Philip Sheridan, chairman of the Mirror trustees, wrote to him asking for assistance in locating up to £20 million that the fund has still not been able to uncover, despite strenuous investigations since Robert Maxwell's death in 1990.

Mr Maxwell replied, saying that he was willing to meet with the trustees, but wanted to raise the issue of his mother's pension fund at the meeting. The 14-strong board of trustees, which includes Charles Wilson, managing director of Mirror Group, have now agreed and a meeting is set for the end of this month.

Mrs Maxwell has claimed a pension of £311,000 a year

from the fund. In a letter sent by her lawyers, DJ Freeman, in 1993, she also claimed £466,000 in back payments and a £750,000 discretionary grant to cover back service to the company. The trustees have denied payment, though documentation shown to them proves that Mrs Maxwell was employed by Mirror Group for nearly a decade.



Mrs Maxwell Mirror staff

Amstrad wins £57m damages

BY JASON NISSE

A £57.5 million High Court victory for Amstrad, the electronics group run by Alan Sugar, is set to pave the way for a £250 million cash handout to the group's shareholders.

Mr Sugar, who is also chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, the Premiership football club, will receive more than £80 million in cash.

Amstrad was awarded the damages after a five-year legal battle with Seagate, the US computer component maker. Amstrad said it had delivered faulty disk drives for Amstrad's PC2386 personal computers.

The poor quality of the PC2386 and its sister computer, the PC2286, ruined Amstrad's reputation in the early 1990s.

Judge Humphrey Lloyd QC, the official referee, ruled that the disk drives made by Seagate had been faulty and awarded damages to Amstrad under the Sale of Goods Act.

Seagate said it would seek leave to appeal, though Nick Gardner of Herbert Smith, Amstrad's solicitor, said it was difficult to appeal against rulings by the official referee.

Mr Sugar said: "Nobody will

ever know where Amstrad would be today if this had not happened. The great efforts of myself and my small team were demolished. The financial award we have received today only goes some way to compensate us."

Amstrad has another action against a disk drive maker, Western Digital, due to start in California in September. Western supplied components for the PC2386 that are alleged to have been faulty.

Amstrad has more than £200 million of cash on its balance sheet and has been under pressure to distribute this to shareholders. Mr Sugar said he would seek a tax-efficient way of distributing the cash once the company knew the result of the Seagate action.

Amstrad had good news earlier this week too when it was awarded a contract to build digital set-top decoders for British Interactive Broadcasting, the consortium set up by BT, Midland Bank, Newsnight and BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times.

AMP sights on Norwich Union

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

AMP is preparing an audacious takeover bid for Norwich Union shortly after the UK life company completes its £5 billion stock market flotation next month.

The Australian mutual, which already owns Pearl Assurance in the UK, is working with Morgan Stanley, the merchant bank. Yesterday Morgan Stanley declined to comment but AMP confirmed it had drawn up "a shortlist" of acquisition targets in the UK.

Based on the upper end of the flotation

price range of 265p, a dawn raid with a bid premium of 25 per cent could give shareholders at least an extra 70p on each share they own. With the average policyholder in line for an £800 windfall, this could mean an extra £200.

AMP was thwarted in its bid for Scottish Amicable, the mutual insurer, which eventually agreed a deal with Prudential Corporation in March.

An industry source said: "AMP learnt a hard lesson when it failed to bag Scottish Amicable. One of the reasons it was beaten by Prudential was because Prudential could offer a much bigger

bonus to policyholders. By waiting until after the flotation AMP will not have to bother with the complication of working out bonuses, as NU members will already have their shares. Instead, it can offer a simple premium of 25 per cent or more. It is a perfect fit, and AMP can sort out NU's Australian business."

AMP is keen to complete the acquisition before its own demutualisation next year, and would need Department of Trade and Industry approval and possibly that of an independent actuary.

To sell or not, page 34

MARTIN CURRIE



Is this the
best way into
Europe?

Ireland is one of the fastest growing economies in Europe. More and more international companies are choosing the Emerald Isle as their 'gateway' into European markets. Always highly regarded for its skilled, well-educated workforce, Ireland is now enjoying the benefits of sustained inward investment. It's the type of development that Martin Currie always monitor very closely as they seek out investment opportunities. Whether near to home or on the other side of the world.

And as specialists in international investment, managing assets of some £5 billion, we believe our investors don't need the luck of the Irish.

MARTIN CURRIE

For a guide to investing with us,
call 0500 61 62 65

INSIGHT ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT

Martin Currie Investment Management Ltd, Saltaire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES. Regulated by INRO.

TT 14

Stake sale takes C&W closer to Beijing deal

By ERIC REGULY

CHINA EVERBRIGHT'S purchase of a 7.7 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom, Cable and Wireless's largest business, was seen yesterday as the first step in C&W reducing its stake in the company before the colony's handover to China.

China Everbright is an investment holding company controlled by the Chinese State Council, a powerful body at the centre of the Beijing power structure. It bought the stake, worth HK\$1.4 billion (about £912 million), from Citic Pacific, another Chinese Government holding company. Citic at one point

owned 20 per cent of Hongkong Telecom and has been trimming its investment in recent years. The reason behind the sales are not known, although analysts note that telecommunications may no longer fit Citic's investment strategy.

China Everbright, whose subsidiaries are listed in Hong Kong, has a diversified portfolio of investments. It is a shareholder of China United Telecommunications Corp, known as Unicorn, which was set up in 1994 to compete with the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, China's main phone company. Unicorn has been tipped as a possible partner for

Hongkong Telecom, which may explain China Everbright's purchase of the stake from Citic.

C&W, which owns 58.5 per cent of Hongkong Telecom, said: "We welcome the proposed investment by China Everbright. This substantial investment of Chinese state capital demonstrates continued confidence in Hongkong Telecom and Hong Kong through the 1997 transition and beyond."

C&W is under pressure from Beijing to reduce its ownership of Hongkong Telecom. The company has suggested that it is willing to do so, but only in return for greater access to the China, the world's fastest growing telecoms market.

In a recent interview, Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive, hinted that a deal could be completed in time for the colony's handover. He called the Hongkong Telecom negotiations "the greatest challenge I've had in my life".

Mr Brown is expected to make a statement on the talks' progress at C&W's annual meeting on Wednesday. He has spent most of this week in Hong Kong.

Shares of C&W rose 10p to 511.5p on the City's belief that the company may not lose outright control of Hongkong Telecom.

Tempus, page 30

Siebe in agreed £327m bid for APV

By OLIVER AUGUST

SIEBE, the engineering company, yesterday launched an agreed £327 million bid for APV, the manufacturer of equipment for the food and drinks industry.

The bid values APV shares at 105p; they stood at 57p when the first indications of a bid surfaced last month. Siebe revealed that it had been behind the first of two expressions of interest; the other is believed to have been by GEA of Germany.

Allen Yurko, chief executive of Siebe, said that his group would unlock the growth potential of APV, which is undergoing restructuring at present. The combined group would be "the world's leading food, beverage, dairy and pharmaceutical process automation company", he said.

Siebe is offering 0.11 new

Siebe shares for each APV share with a full cash alternative of 97p per APV share. Siebe already owns 3 per cent of APV shares.

The main benefit of the acquisition is expected to come from combining Siebe's and APV's marketing networks. Barrie Stephens, chairman of Siebe, said: "There are significant growth opportunities, clear operating synergies and the combination of the two companies will create increased shareholder value."

Siebe is a leading supplier of computer automation systems in the chemical, utility, paper and metals sectors and hopes to bolster its one weak spot, in food processing, with the acquisition. The group does not expect regulatory objections as it only holds about 15 per cent of a very fragmented market.

Siebe made its first bid for APV in 1986 in a bitterly fought takeover battle. It valued APV at £220 million but the offer was rejected by APV shareholders.

Analysts consider the two businesses a good fit generally, but Siebe was said to be paying over the odds. Chris Hemmingway, at Lehman Brothers said: "It is a very expensive purchase. They will have to double the profits of the business before it adds anything in terms of shareholder value. The fact that it adds to earnings per share is irrelevant."

Siebe defended its move, saying that APV will be subject to Siebe's overall growth target of 10 per cent per annum.

Siebe will inherit more than 1,000 APV employees. Mr Yurko said that the deal "could mean some additional reductions in staff". APV has already reduced its workforce from around 13,000 to 7,000.

Siebe's shares rose 10p to 96.5p, while APV's were up 15p to 107.5p.

Tempus, page 30

Field talks to Chile's pensions reformer

By ROBERT MILLER

THE man who led the privatisation of pensions in Chile has held talks with Frank Field, the new Social Security and Welfare Reform Minister. It emerged yesterday.

José Piner, the president of the International Centre for Pension Reform, told delegates at the annual conference of the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) in Harrogate that because of the reforms to the Chilean pension system "pensions have ceased to be a government issue, thus depoliticising a huge sector of the economy and giving individuals more control over their own lives."

The success of Chile's private Pension Savings Account (PSA) has led to seven other South American countries following suit, said Dr Piner. These include Peru in 1993 and Argentina and Colombia in 1994.

By 1998, more than 20 million workers in Latin America will have a funded, individually owned and privately operated retirement plan. Chile boasts that its PSAs have already accumulated an investment of \$25 billion.

Dr Piner concluded: "A typical Chilean worker is not indifferent to the behaviour of the stock market or interest rates. Intuitively, he knows that a bad Minister of Finance can reduce the value of his pension rights."



Ring the changes: David Fisher, the chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade, left, William Crowe, US ambassador to the UK, centre, and Jack Wigglesworth, chairman of Liffe, ring the bell to mark the start of trading on the first day of the amalgamation of the world's two largest futures exchanges, moving a step closer to a 24-hour trading day.

Cheshire challenges Halifax

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

CHESHIRE County Council has launched a campaign to persuade the Halifax Building Society, set for a £12 billion stock market flotation next month, to give free shares to 50 elderly residents in its care.

The council claims the residents will miss out on about 10,000 shares worth more than £40,000 simply because they have mental disabilities. Nearly eight million Halifax customers are to receive free shares worth an average of £1,300 each when the society

floats on June 2. However, many people have been excluded because only the first-named person on an account is eligible for the lucrative windfalls. This means that some people whose accounts are operated by others, such as disabled people, those in care and some residents of elderly people's homes, have lost out.

John Collins, leader of Cheshire County Council, said legal action was "a possibility". He has written to Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for

Health, asking him to intervene, and is also seeking the backing of Cheshire's 11 MPs.

New legislation was approved in March that will change the system of entitlement in the future and give more rights to the disabled.

A Halifax spokesman said: "We don't discriminate against any group. There is no legal action. Cheshire County Council can take many disabled people who receive free shares. We believe our scheme is fair."

Former Nissan chief in £1m action by Botnar

By JASON NISSE

OCTAVIO BOTNAR, the former Nissan UK chief who is now a fugitive from justice in Switzerland, is suing Michael Hunt, his former colleague, for £1 million, which was used to pay for Hunt's defence against fraud charges.

Hunt, who was managing director of Nissan UK, is currently at HM Prison Send, near Woking in Surrey, serving eight years after being convicted in 1993 of conspiring to defraud the Inland Revenue of more than £55 million.

As part of his sentence, Hunt, 62, was banned from being a director for ten years and told to pay £513,000 in prosecution costs. Frank Shannon, Nissan UK's former finance director, was also jailed for three years and told to pay £131,000 in costs.

Mr Botnar, 52, was said to be too ill to travel from Switzerland, where he lives in the ski resort of Villars sur Ollon, to stand trial. Last year, Nissan UK struck a deal with the Revenue to pay £59 million of outstanding taxes.

However, the Revenue is still demanding another £60 million from Mr Botnar personally and a warrant for his arrest is still outstanding. He was also a leading contributor to the Conservative Party, having donated £90,000 before his flight to Switzerland.

Hunt was defended by Herbert Smith, the leading City law firm, as well as Michael Sherrard QC. According to the action by Mr Botnar, Hunt was lent a total of £1.44 million to pay the costs of this defence.

So far Hunt has been able to repay £450,000 and Mr Botnar is claiming the £990,000 which is still outstanding plus interest.

The issue is complicated by the fact that Herbert Smith acted for Nissan UK in its dealings with the Revenue.

Mr Botnar is now using the West End firm of Jeffrey Green Russell, which was also hired by Hunt to appeal to the House of Lords against his conviction. But Philip Cohen, the partner at Jeffrey Green Russell acting for Mr Botnar, said yesterday that the firm is now no longer acting for Hunt.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Billionaire's stake in Christie's now 29.57%

JOSEPH LEWIS, the Bahamas-based billionaire, has increased his holding in Christie's, the fine art auctioneers, to just under one third of the company, it emerged yesterday. Abel Inc, Mr Lewis's investment vehicle, bought three million shares for £6.85 million and now has 29.57 per cent of the company, intensifying speculation that he may launch a full takeover bid. Shares in Christie's rose 2p to 301.5p.

A spokeswoman for Christie's would not comment on speculation that Mr Lewis may launch a full bid for the world's oldest auction house, but added: "We are obviously in contact with Mr Lewis as a major shareholder in the company." Mr Lewis recently paid £40 million for a 25 per cent stake in Glasgow Rangers Football Club. Mr Lewis, who at age 16 started work in his father's cafe in the East End of London, made much of his fortune from speculating on the money markets. His Christie's shares are now worth about £150 million.

Woolwich raises rate

THE Woolwich, the third largest building society, with 550,000 borrowers, is raising its standard variable mortgage rate by 0.31 per cent to 7.6 per cent. The increase will add about £9.48 to the monthly payments on a £50,000 interest-only mortgage. The new rate comes in immediately for new borrowers and from June 1 for existing customers. Halifax Building Society, Abbey National and Cheltenham & Gloucester were among the first lenders to move after interest rates rose from 6 per cent to 6.25 per cent on Tuesday. The Nationwide has so far resisted a rise.

Prowing recovery

A RESURGENCE in second-half trading helped Prowing, the housebuilder, to bounce back from its halfway slump to lift pre-tax profits to £7.7 million (£6 million) in the full year. The company, which six months ago was nursing a 46 per cent fall in half-time profits, said that demand had picked up sharply after last August as margins jumped from 5.7 per cent to 8.6 per cent. Terry Roydon, chief executive, said: "It's not going berserk, it's certainly not Kensington, but we are seeing a steady recovery." Earnings rose to 6.1p a share (4.7p), and a final of 2.1p makes 4p for the year, due on July 14.

Stagecoach 'low payer'

STAGECOACH, Britain's largest transport group, pays the lowest average weekly wage in the privatised bus industry, according to a survey from the Transport and General Workers' Union. The company, which runs the largest proportion of around-town buses in Britain, was found to pay many of its drivers less than £4 an hour, with an average weekly wage of £186. The union said that the remaining publicly owned bus operators pay £208 a week. Go-Ahead and Firstbus, the transport groups, also pay a significant proportion of their drivers below £4 an hour, the survey said.

Watchdog snaps at BT

BT breached the terms of its licence in the way it runs Call Minder, its telephone answering service, according to a ruling from Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, yesterday. Don Cruickshank, Director-General of Ofcom, said he was in no doubt that BT was at fault after completing an investigation into the service, which has more than 700,000 users. The inquiry follows a complaint from a rival. But the regulator said that unless BT's rivals can prove they are "seriously interested in setting up competing services", then BT may not be penalised.

New rail routes agreed

MORE freedom for private train companies to expand their services was signalled yesterday by John Swift, the rail regulator. He ruled that the South Wales and West company can run new through-rail services in competition with CrossCountry, operated by Richard Branson's Virgin Group. Railtrack had originally said that South Wales and West, run by Prism Rail, did not have the right to operate the new services from Manchester to London Waterloo, Manchester to Penzance in Cornwall and Liverpool to Portsmouth in Hampshire, all via Newport in Gwent and Bristol.

JLI bid talks end

SHARES in JLI Group fell 6p to 55.5p yesterday after the specialist foods company said talks on a possible takeover of the business have ended without agreement. In February JLI shareholders were told of preliminary approaches "which may or may not lead to an offer being made for the company". Yesterday the company said that current trading in the group's continuing operations is in line with management's expectations. The group expects to announce its year-end results on June 12.

T&B pays £17m for rival

TIBBETT & BRITTEN, the distribution company, is preparing to swallow its smaller rival, Applied Distribution, in a deal worth about £17 million. T&B announced yesterday that it is in discussions with Applied about a possible all-share offer at around 48p per share. The news sent shares in Applied up 6p to 42p while T&B's shares rose 1p to 62.2p. Baring's, Applied's adviser, was reprimanded by the Takeover Panel in February for not consulting it on two occasions when the company's share price moved sharply.

Graseby sells in US

GRASEBY, the UK electronic instruments group, has sold Graseby Controls Inc, a US subsidiary, to TB Woods Inc for around £3 million. The subsidiary, based in North Carolina, manufactures motor control products and includes the activities of the former Graseby Volkman Corporation. Last year, Graseby Controls had sales of £3.2 million and a trading profit of £400,000. At the end of 1996, net assets were £900,000. Graseby will use the proceeds of the disposal to reduce borrowings.

Cost of reshaping NIE hits profits

By OLIVER AUGUST

RESTRUCTURING charges made in anticipation of new price controls almost halved pre-tax profits of Northern Ireland Electricity.

David Jeffries, chairman, said that NIE incurred reorganisation costs of £50.6 million last year after a dispute with Douglas McDillon, the industry regulator, who had demanded a better deal for consumers. In the year in March 31, pre-tax profits fell to £60 million, from £107.4 million.

The dispute looked likely to be settled last month, when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission called for a re-

view cut of 25 per cent this financial year. However, the regulator has not yet accepted the findings of the MMC, to which he had referred the matter. NIE wrote to him last week, to put the case for accepting the MMC findings.

Mr Jeffries said that the MMC decision was harsher than he had hoped.

Sales grew modestly last year, from £525 million to £560 million. Earnings per share fell to 21.6p, from 36.8p, but the full-year dividend rises to 20.4p (19p), with a final 15.4p (14p).

Tempus, page 30

Millionaire club as Fogel sells Toy Stack to Hamleys

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DAVID FOGEL, founder of the Toy Stack chain of toy shops, is set to become a millionaire after agreeing to sell his business to Hamleys for £8.7 million.

Mr Fogel, 42, who was sole owner of Toy Stack, will also collect a net dividend worth £1.44 million ahead of the sale's completion.

Hamleys intends to carry on running Toy Stack, which has 11 branches, as a separate brand.

Mr Fogel began the business in 1975 with one shop, named Hobbies and Models,

in Kenton, Middlesex. A second store was opened in 1984 in Ealing, west London, and expansion then began under the Toy Stack name. Mr Fogel is to join the board of Hamleys as buying and merchandising director. He will be paid an annual £115,000 plus benefits and will be on a 12-month rolling contract.

Toy Stack had sales of £10.5 million last year, up from £9.5 million, and pre-tax profits of £1.7 million, unchanged on the previous year. Howard Dyer, chairman of Hamleys, said that the true pre-tax profit last

year was nearer £1.4 million, because Mr Fogel underpaid himself. Mr Dyer said that the results for the whole year will be "heavily dependent on trading during the Christmas period".

Mr Dyer said the acquisition "will enhance Hamley's earnings in the current year and in the first full year of trading". He said that buying Toy Stack was a way of making the most of Hamley's "buying and toy retailing skills."

Tempus, page 30

Tring founder seeks to oust old school chum

By CHRIS AYRES

A POWER struggle that would not be out of place in an episode of *Dallas* erupted at Tring International yesterday when one of the company's founders launched a bid to oust his co-founder and former school friend from the board.

Mark Frey and Philip Robinson, who met in the 1960s at Buckingham College in Harrow, fell out two years ago when their cut-price music and video publishing company ran into a series of high-profile rows over copyright.

Tring was accused by A&M records over an instrumental album of Chris Rea songs, and Cameron Mackintosh, the impresario, sued over a *Les Misérables* album that did not feature the original cast. The company also became involved in copyright disputes with Polygram, EMI, MCA, Island and K-Tel.

Tring has since seen its share price nosedive from 151p to 11p, and the company suffered a pre-tax loss of £2.4 million on turnover of £10.4 million for the six months to September 30 last year.

Mr Frey, who was forced to resign as joint chief executive 18 months ago, now proposes to remove Mr Robinson, who is currently chief executive, along with Joe Bolloom, the chairman, and Steve Porter, the finance director. He has the support of Jay Chernow, a major shareholder, and if successful Mr Frey and two others will replace the present board.

Mr Robinson said yesterday: "It is hugely sad and it's all quite hurtful. I don't talk privately to Mark and there is no chance of doing a deal to allow him to come back into the company."

Since Mr Frey resigned, Tring had

settled approximately 15 disputes with record companies, including K-Tel, which has subsequently bought two million shares in the company, he said.

Mr Robinson added: "Mark left because there was a growing difference in the way we thought that the business should be run." The former friends made an estimated £10 million each when Tring floated on the stock market at 118p in 1994, giving it a market value of £50 million. It is estimated that Mr Frey and Mr Chernow own a 20 per cent stake, compared to 15 per cent owned by the present board.

The future of the company will be decided at an extraordinary general meeting before May 29, the date that Tring's preliminary results for the year ended March 31 are due to be announced.



Philip Robinson, left, and Mark Frey in happier times

THE SUNDAY TIMES
INSTANT INTEREST
Brown stopped Burns in mid-sentence. "There is this we would like to do," he said, producing a letter setting out the plan that was to have such a stunning impact.
In Business, tomorrow
THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Country	Bank	Rate
Australia	2.17	2.21
Canada	2.17	2.21
Denmark	2.17	2.21
France	2.17	2.21
Germany	2.17	2.21
Italy	2.17	2.21
Japan	2.17	2.21
Netherlands	2.17	2.21
Portugal	2.17	2.21
Spain	2.17	2.21
Sweden	2.17	2.21
Switzerland	2.17	2.21
UK	2.17	2.21

A WORKING WEEK FOR: VANNI TREVES

Florentine advocate of life beyond the law

Jon Ashworth cross-examines a corporate lawyer who has managed to find the time to extend his busy brief to the boardroom

Monday MOST lawyers are too busy billing clients to consider a life outside the office. Not Vanni Treves. He walks the streets of London, sits on company boards, and waves the flag for art galleries, in addition to running a fast-growing law firm. Not bad, for an Italian who arrived in the UK more than 50 years ago, not speaking a word of English.

Treves, 56, is about to log his 10th year as senior partner in Macfarlanes, a City law firm that combines aggressive tactics with a patrician pedigree. Richard Branson's family trusts are among the clients, while Treves acts personally for John Paul Getty II, the reclusive billionaire who saved Canova's *The Three Graces* for the nation.

He is a governor of London Business School, leads fund-raising for the National Portrait Gallery, and is chairman of three publicly quoted companies — BBA Group, where Roberto Quarta is chief executive; McKechie, the Walsall-based components group; and Trinity Holdings, a maker of buses, dust cars and fire engines. Treves' father was killed fighting for the Allies during the liberation of Florence in 1944. His mother fell in love with an Englishman, and decamped to the UK, dispatching Treves on his new course. "At the age of five I found myself in London, and was put immediately, not speaking a word of English, into a little prep school. It sounded harsh, but it worked extremely well. I'm told, because in that kind of environment, one learnt the language incredibly quickly."

Schooling at St Paul's, and a law degree from University College, Oxford, have left Treves sounding every bit the Englishman. After graduating in 1961 at the age of 20, he set off for America, and embarked on a postgraduate degree at the University of Illinois in the splendidly named Champagne, south of Chicago.

On his return, he joined Macfarlanes, then a small, gentlemanly firm with an aristocratic clientele. "A little list went up. I remember, on the law library notice board, saying that two partners would be visiting the college on such-and-such a day, in order to interview gentlemen who might be interested in becoming solicitors. I thought, well, I'll have a go."

He has spent 25 years with the firm, barring a one-year secondment on Wall Street in the late 1960s. The latter shaped his thinking. "Law now, in this country, is a business. At that time, it was a learned, somewhat introspective, profession, but the Americans were already there in terms of aggressive marketing, already practising law as a business, and I learnt a great deal from that."

Macfarlanes is not a big firm, ranking 25th in the *Legal Business 100*, with gross fees of £32.5 million in 1995-96. The top

five are Clifford Chance (£282 million); Linklaters & Paines (£187 million); Freshfields (£154.6 million); Allen & Overy (£138 million); and Slaughter and May (£133 million).

Fees aside, Macfarlanes is right up there with the leaders in terms of profitability, with each partner making an average profit of £943,000. Treves says: "We have, for many years, been in financial terms one of the most successful firms in the country, and I'd like to think our reputation continues to grow. We are not a huge firm. We don't pretend to be. What we'd like to be is a firm of choice for those, and there are many of them, thank goodness, who are not looking for a huge firm to do their business."

"All we've got to sell is our intelligence, our experience and our time. There are no widgets here. And it's a very competitive marketplace. London is full of extremely talented lawyers, and therefore to be distinctive, to be chosen by clients in such an environment, is a demanding business, and that's the business we're in."

As a corporate lawyer, Treves spends much of his time telling people how to run their businesses, so it was perhaps inevitable that he would be told to practise what he preached. In 1984, he became a non-executive director of Oeconics, a marine services company which he had

seen to the market, and which was later to sport John Bryan of toe-sucking fame as managing director. Oeconics had "an extremely bumpy ride", but Treves stuck with it since "rats don't leave sinking ships". During one of the calm spells, he quietly made his exit. The company shares were suspended earlier this year. Further directorships were to follow, including a stint with Saatchi & Saatchi. "I think it's a shame that so few people do it. Business lawyers do see an awful lot of how the world works, and have, I think, relevant experience." The fees paid to Treves as a director are passed on to Macfarlanes.

Treves is the consummate City gent, with a club in St James's, and dinners at Westminster, and it is all too easy to forget his Italian origins. He once held an Italian passport, and was obliged to become a British subject in order to qualify as a solicitor. "You had to read an editorial from *The Times* to a policeman, in order to show you could speak the language properly."

He lives in Islington, north London, with his wife, Angela, and walks to Macfarlanes' office near Chancery Lane. They also have a home in Suffolk. Their three children are Alexander, who went to Eton and Cambridge, and is now with Mercury Asset Management in Singapore, William, another old Etonian, who is in his final year at Oxford, and Louise, who is boarding at Downe House, near Newbury in Berkshire. A gift from William — a large, sculptured vase — sits in the corner of his father's airy office.



Gimmick-free zone: Vanni Treves says that all his legal practice has to sell "is our intelligence, our experience and our time. There are no widgets here"

Family holidays consist of "geriatric skiing" in Switzerland or America, and summer trips to Italy, where any number of aunts and uncles await. Treves was born in Florence, and is still torn. "The beauty of Florence, the vivacity of the Florentine, the vibrancy of life there, are almost beyond description. On the other hand, if you're a fairly organised person like me, the chaos, the absence of bus queues, the petty corruption, the constant disorganisation, are extremely irritating."

London has seen no shortage of mergers among middle-tier law firms, and Macfarlanes is an obvious target. "We're often approached, but we are very, very tight-knit partnership. It was only recently, because the partners became so prolific, that I no longer knew the names of all my partners' children. When we say that partnership here is closer than marriage, we're only half-joking."

Being small has its advantages. Slaughter and May, Freshfields, and so on, what you are doing is defending a franchise. What we are doing is trying to build a great firm. And that requires very, very different mindsets. In other words, a partner in Macfarlanes has to try that much

harder. This sounds like a recipe for hard-nosed aggression — the Dibb Lupton Alsop approach — but Treves insists otherwise. "There is a long tradition of civilisation in this firm. What we try to do is to be highly respected by our peers, while at the same time being extremely ambitious and trenchant in our attitude." Treves says he is fortunate to enjoy such variety. "I can't exaggerate how lucky I am to have that meld

of responsibility. I have the firm, I have the companies, I have quite a lot of trusteeships, and I also have — and need to have, to avoid going potty — extramur-

al activities." These include London Business School, which "bridges, admirably, the historic gap between management on the one side, and education on the other, in a way that this country is only belatedly managing to do. When you compare the quality and number of business schools in the US with the paucity in this country... lamentable."

Treves is chairman of the development board of the National Portrait Gallery, which he describes as one of Britain's undersung treasures. He loves watercolours, and painting in general.

On another front, he has just been asked to be chairman of a new NSPCC Justice for Children appeal seeking to fight paedophiles and afford better protection to child witnesses in court. "I can't begin to

exaggerate the extent and subtlety of paedophile rings in this country. [It is] unbelievable how numerous and pernicious these rings are, and the NSPCC is doing some ground-breaking work in tracking down these people."

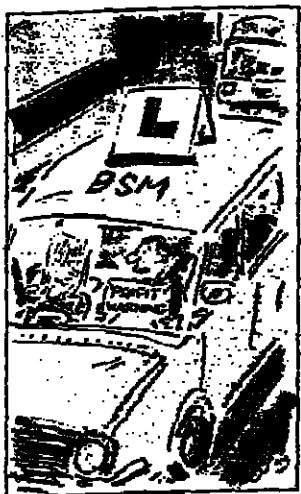
Treves is happy to continue as senior partner for as long as his peers allow — he is just starting his fourth, three-year term, — and will continue in his own inimitable style. He walks at least two hours a day, and can often be found strolling through Covent Garden, on his way back from lunch at Boodle's. Treves makes light of his achievements. "When my wife is asked what I do for a living, she says absolutely truthfully 'he eats, and he talks, in that order'. Absolutely true!" Those billings will have to wait.

End of an era

The sad news arrives of the death of Jim Rowland-Jones, indefatigable fighter for the small shareholder in a series of boardroom battles over a period of at least 20 years. He died on Thursday morning at his Bournemouth home aged 70. So effective was his lobbying that on at least two occasions he managed to have Department of Trade inspectors appointed to examine his claims. A colleague, then on *The Sunday Times*, recalls that Jim would regularly arrive at that newspaper's offices as editors were going to press and insist on dragging him out for a drink and an update on his latest campaign.

His last battle before semi-retirement was against Andrew "Tarzan" Grey, the fringe financier who must have regretted the day he tried to remove Rowland-Jones as chairman of Brenner, a Glasgow department store business. That battle continues in the courts after his death, this son James assures me, a decade or more after it started.

● A STORY from the architectural profession confirms everything we all suspected



When I open this envelope, I want you to do an emergency stop

about traders at Liffa. Sir Norman Foster's firm is now designing the stately pleasure dome at Spitalfields that the market will one day occupy, and the clean-living architects have run into a peculiar snag. It seems the 10,000-odd traders there will need huge areas set aside for smoking rooms, because a full half of them are slaves to the weed. Liffa's current base at Cannon Street is also non-smoking and has the usual designated areas, although I recall from my last visit that, as in most offices, smokers tended to huddle on window-sills and outside walkways when the urge took them. A Liffa spokeswoman denies any significantly higher level of addiction, to tobacco or anything else, but adds: "It is a more stressful job."

Off the rails

NOTE the unusual strength of Railtrack shares earlier this week, on the day that South West Trains was let off with a derisory fine and it became obvious that Labour would not include reform of rail regulation in the next Queen's Speech. Directors have been known to suggest privately to the City that Railtrack is bombproof whichever party is in power, because their own regulator, John Swift, can only be removed for "incapacity or misbehaviour" (almost impossible; the same applies to judges, and try sacking one of them) or by Act of Parliament, and can do what he wants until November next year when his contract runs out.

The market obviously believes them. Not so, says my man in the anorak on the railway cuttings, Gavin Strang, the minister into whose bailiwick this falls, might care to glance at something called the Derogation and Contracting Act 1994, section 1 thereof, for a start. This allows him to change the law by statutory in-



strument, that is, pretty well overnight. This is known in the trade as "Henry VIII powers", it seems. Mr Strang is better on mad cows, his last area of expertise, than on railway regulation, but he should not believe the Sir Humphreys who tell him nothing can be done.

● GUESS which heavyweight political pundit won the *Mirror* Group sweepstake with the closest estimate of Labour's majority? As his former employer would have put it, it was Kelvin what won it. Kelvin Mackenzie, former editor of *The Sun* and now in charge of *LIVE TV*. *Mirror*'s largely unwatched cable service, came away £240 richer. Inspired by his political acumen, he then put a £2,000 bet on the Tory leadership election — backing Michael Heseltine. Oh dear. Kelvin's reaction? "The Socialists have only been in power a week, and I'm already £1,760 down."

Co-operative?

ONE would hate to cast a dampener over the victory celebrations at the Co-Operative Retail Services today, but power appears to have gone to someone's head. A couple of weeks ago, when the War of Andrew Regan's Ego had just been won, we asked the CRS if a representative of *The Times* could attend the annual meet-

ing in Holborn this afternoon and get an idea of the mood of the members. Said Harry Moore, chief executive, cheerfully: "I don't see why not."

Now somebody who styles himself "Corporate affairs officer" — at the Co-op? — says the chairman, Peter Rowbotham, has had a think about it and decided to keep the press out. As to ordinary members' views, these are to be obtained from an information officer, whatever that is. It all sounds a bit Stalinist. As I recall, the last left-leaning business that made a habit of barring the press was run by Robert Maxwell, and look what happened to him.

Cashing in

JUST how far Standard Chartered has come was illustrated by Malcolm Williamson's good fortune this week. The bank's chief executive exercised his option on 103,000 shares awarded at 281p a share in 1993, a time when the bank was so accident-prone that it was questionable whether it would survive. On Thursday he cashed in his options at 958p a share, a profit of £600,000. His timing was not perfect — he could have waited until yesterday's surge in financial stocks, which left the shares worth £10.16.



Malcolm Williamson: reaping his just rewards at Standard Chartered

put your money on the TORTOISE



GVG Asset Management is a division of stockbrokers Gerrard Vivian Gray Limited, which is a subsidiary of Gerrard Group plc.

Member of the London Stock Exchange and regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority Registered Office: 88 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS Registered in England No. 2136365

Conventional wisdom says that higher returns mean higher risk. In this case conventional wisdom is wrong. GVG Asset Management run private client portfolios and our Low Risk Growth strategy can deliver:

- **Outstanding performance** providing a better return than cash and even outstripping the capital return from the FTSE All Share⁽³⁾, but with
- **Lower risk.** The strategy produces reassuringly consistent performance and carries lower risk than conventional equity based portfolios. What's more, there is
- **Little or no tax** on returns to most clients, so the strategy is well suited for tax planning alongside a PEP. Especially since, unlike a PEP, there is
- **No limit** on investment. And unlike many other low risk investments, there is no problem with
- **Access** to funds at any time.

For more details please ring Jeremy Nunn on 0171 413 0881 or contact your independent financial adviser.

For more details please ring Jeremy Nunn on 0171 413 0881 or contact your independent financial adviser.

GVG ASSET MANAGEMENT

To: Jeremy Nunn, GVG Asset Management, Burne House, 88 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS. Telephone: 0171 413 0881 Facsimile: 0171 404 0776 E-mail: gvgam@gvg.co.uk Internet: <http://www.gvg.co.uk/an/> Please send me full details of the Low Risk Growth strategy.

Name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime Tel: _____

*Past performance is no guide to the future. The value of an investment can go down as well as up and the investor may not get back the amount originally invested. Changes in exchange rates may affect the value of overseas investments. The source of all figures is Hindsight except GVG performance. Source GVG. All performance figures are from the launch of the Low Risk Growth Portfolio on 31/3/91 to 31/3/97.



BOOM OR BUST? 36

Analysts disagree over how the Dow will move

WEEKEND MONEY

HOPES DASHED 35

A divorcee paid the mortgage but missed the windfall



THE TIMES PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Homebuyers find release

The nation's ten million homebuyers were the first to taste the medicine when Gordon Brown announced a quarter-point rise in base rates to 6.25 per cent on Tuesday at the same time as revealing that, henceforth, the Bank of England will be responsible for interest-rate policy.

Lenders reacted swiftly by raising their standard variable mortgage rates by more than the base rate rise. Existing borrowers on variable rates — most home buyers — will start to pay an average 7.6 per cent on their loans from June 1, up from an average 7.25 per cent now. The markets are widely forecasting another quarter-point rise before the year end.

Such forecasts have sent borrowers scurrying to the haven of some of the remaining fixed-rate offers, hoping to protect themselves against further rises. But the best offers are rapidly being withdrawn and replaced with more expensive ones, which could start looking poor value if base rates drop back over the next

Homebuyers should cap or fix their rates, says

Sara McConnell

few years. Analysts think Mr Brown's surprise move to detach the Bank of England from political control could release homeowners from the interest-rate rollercoaster they have ridden for the past ten years.

Homebuyers should take out capped-rate mortgages, rather than fixed rates, to avoid being caught out if interest rates fall again in the next few years, mortgage advisers said. Patrick Buntin, of London & Country Mortgages, the independent mortgage adviser, said: "People will be more comfortable with an independent Bank of England because there will be less fear of political rises. Fixed rates look like a good deal now if people want to budget, but if they

have reasonable flexibility they should get a capped rate".

These protect borrowers from rises higher than a set amount but fall in line with falls in base rates so that borrowers benefit from lower rates. Mr Buntin favours Stroud & Swindon's three-year capped rate of 7.49 per cent which has no lock-in penalty at the end of the three-year term. This means borrowers are free to go elsewhere rather than be stuck with whatever variable rate the Stroud & Swindon has to offer. John Charcol has a capped rate guaranteed not to rise above 7.99 per cent for five years, with a current standard rate of 7.39 per cent. There is no penalty for changing lenders after five years.

Charles Levett-Scrivener of Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, said prospective borrowers wanting fixed rates should wait until lenders start offering new loans whose rates reflect falls in long-term interest rates.

Winning move, page 33

Expect gazump reform

A springing housebuyers do not need to be told that gazumping is back. Fierce competition for too few properties is tempting sellers to be ruthless, dumping buyers unceremoniously if a higher offer comes along.

According to a survey published this week by Barclays Bank, the mismatch of potential sellers and buyers, leading to gazumping, is most acute in the North East, where one in six people wants to buy, but only one in 19 wants to sell. In London's overheated market, one in seven wants to buy and one in 14 wants to sell.

Labour is pledged to combat gazumping. One of the many tasks facing Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, is to analyse the results of a consultative document on anti-gazumping measures issued in February. Labour sources report a good response and said yesterday they will now spend several months considering the feedback.

One proposal is a "costs guarantee". Buyer and seller would be liable to meet the other side's costs if either withdrew from the deal before exchange of contracts. Many buyers who are gazumped have already spent hundreds of pounds on solicitors' and surveyors' fees.

The signing of such a guarantee could become compulsory. But either side would be free to withdraw for good reason, such as if the buyer was caught in a chain.

SARA MCCONNELL

Leaseholders still waiting

Thousands of leaseholders in dispute with their landlords over service charges are still waiting for an easier, cheaper system of redress almost a year after such a system was promised (Sara McConnell writes).

Under the Housing Act 1996, which passed into law last July, leaseholders would be allowed to take service charge disputes to a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal (LVT) rather than the County Court. LVTs would charge a fixed fee and could not award costs, unlike courts. Only a handful of leaseholders have dared to take their cases to court, fearing that they could face large costs. Final orders giving LVTs new powers were meant to be signed into law in April but the general election intervened. Now Labour must decide whether to go ahead with LVTs or wait until it has time for more fundamental leasehold reform. Such reforms would include making it easier for leaseholders to buy freeholds and introducing a form of commonhold, allowing flatowners to own their homes individually and their block collectively.

But Hilary Armstrong, housing minister, will come under pressure to establish new LVTs to handle service charge disputes. Labour may have to abandon its previous objections to charging £500 to take a case to a LVT.

Borrowers could find themselves paying more than £500 extra a year for an average £50,000 loan if the new Labour Government abolishes tax relief on mortgage interest (Sara McConnell writes).

There was no commitment in the Government's manifesto to preserve tax relief on mortgage interest (Miras), which has led to widespread speculation that the relief could be abolished sooner rather than later. Its value has been steadily eroded by a combination of government cuts and interest-rate falls, but it is still worth £28.50 a month on loan interest of £30,000. After this week's interest-rate rise, the value of Miras has risen slightly from its previous level of £27.17.

The higher mortgage rate will mean an extra £13.26 a month on mortgage bills for borrowers on the average £50,000 loan, the Halifax has

Scrapping tax relief could cost £500 per year

calculated. This higher mortgage bill coupled with the removal of tax relief would cost £41.76 a month at the new rates, or £501.12 a year.

The Government may well be tempted to rid itself of Miras while interest rates are low because it would be less painful for borrowers and so less politically risky. But lenders and builders have lost no time telling Gordon Brown,

the new Chancellor, that abolition of Miras would be a blow for a housing market whose recovery in many areas of the country is still patchy.

Roger Humber, chief executive of the House Builders' Federation, said this week that any move to abolish Miras, or impose VAT on new housebuilding would "stop the housing market dead in its tracks through much of the

country". Lenders are, however, remaining outwardly relaxed about the effect on the housing market of this week's quarter percentage point rise in base rates.

Large lenders including the Halifax, Abbey National, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Northern Rock and Coventry reacted swiftly by raising their standard mortgage rates by more than the amount of the base-rate rise. The Cheltenham & Gloucester, now the mortgage arm of Lloyds Bank, raised its rate by the largest margin, from 7.22 per cent to 7.6 per cent. Last year the former building society abandoned its promise that it would hold mortgage rates lower than those of its competitors.

Northern Rock, by contrast, pledged to continue with its newly launched variable rate of 6.09 per cent, available through its direct mortgage arm.

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

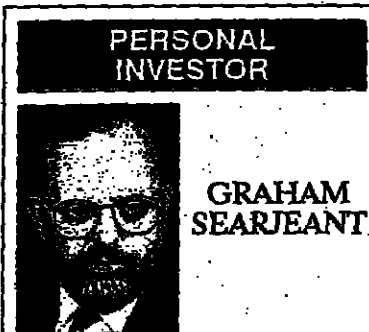
Basic truths from Borneo

Two years ago, Bre-X Minerals was a virtually worthless little company in Alberta, Canada. Today, it appears to be totally worthless. In between, it was valued at more than £3 billion, hailed as the wonder of the mining world and included in a Toronto stock market index.

The difference between nothing and everything was a gold mining prospect in the deepest Indonesian rainforests of Borneo, a hot place for prospectors but one of the most obscure places left on earth for Westerners. Rights to the Busing prospect had been bought for \$80,000 by Bre-X's unprepossessing principals, hitherto an assortment of ambitious losers. It was Bre-X's last throw. But it came up.

There was gold in their hills. What's more, the world was told, it was contained in unusual geological circumstances that made it amazingly cheap to get out. So, as estimates of the reserves grew from three million to 200 million ounces, Bre-X's value grew in proportion. Instead of being one of many shooting stars in a galaxy of Canadian mining stocks that have had a dodgy image since the Yukon gold rush, Bre-X moved on to claim a place among the world's top mining stocks.

As we now know, Busing's place in history will actually be as the locus of the world's worst mining fraud. The gold in the hills had been put there. No doubt a few shareholders went from dogs to clogs in those two years, but many directly involved in Bre-X sensibly realised a few pennies on the way. Outsiders should have done the same.



PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

One Quebec pension fund managed to lose £30 million, but the stock was so actively traded that most investors were in and out at varying prices. The worst losers broke every sensible rule of investing by borrowing money to buy the shares last year, when they teetered round their peak for 12 months.

Even in genuine finds, such as the Australian nickel fireworks of the 1960s, prices go far ahead of events once everyone leaps in. Enthusiasm for the mineral tends to gloss over matters such as the cost of setting up a mine, claims by all and sundry for a piece of the action, the predations of the likes of Indonesia's ruling family and the need for independents to bring in experienced partners, such as those whose "due diligence" buried Bre-X.

Relatively few UK investors were in Bre-X, which makes it easy to be smug about those wild Canadians and Australians. But remember Lanica, the bubble stock that consisted only of a hare-

brained scheme to take over the Co-op. Those with long memories may also recall the El Sobrante platinum prospect in California. In 1970 it was set to transform E J Austin International, a failing British conglomerate. Like Busing, El Sobrante's value rested on local assays via a special process, which turned out to be salting the ore samples. Kenneth Howarth, chairman of E J Austin, was given a five-year jail sentence in 1975, but that did not help investors.

Honest mining is a gamble and for that reason big mining companies rely increasingly on small-time hopefuls to prospect the wilder shores. Investors looking after their retirement savings should not touch them. They are inherently high-risk, like many biotechnology and computer developments.

A part from inherent high risk, they fail the test that you should be able to understand what you are investing in. The amazing profits Polly Peck reported from hush-hush operations in northern Cyprus, or the huge returns that Barings earned from derivatives operations in Singapore are often too good to be true.

Gambling with money you can afford to lose is, however, an important role of private investors. Where would AIM stocks be otherwise? There, the rule is not to be too greedy, take some profits along the way. Beware too when a penny stock's price booms so far that it acquires a big market capitalisation without any visible means of support. That is the time to sell — and avoid being stuck, when the music stops, with the next Bre-X or the next Lanica.

10 MILLION INVESTORS TRUSTED FIDELITY

WINDFALL PEP?

CALL THE XPERTS.

NO COST. NO OBLIGATION. NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT.

If you're a Halifax or an Alliance & Leicester shareholder and have decided to keep your free conversion shares, you now have some key decisions to make. You'll probably want to protect them from the tax man by sheltering them inside a Personal Equity Plan (PEP).

But should you use the PEP that your building society offers you? Or should you choose a PEP from someone else? And if so, from whom?

To clear the confusion maybe you should get some help from an expert. Fidelity is the world's largest fund manager and, with over £330 billion funds under management, we are three times the size of the Halifax, Britain's biggest building society. So, we believe, there is no-one more successful than Fidelity.

Phone us, free, without obligation, and take your time to ask us any questions you like.

We'll explain how you can keep your profits tax free. We'll outline all your investment options. And we'll explain how much you'll have to pay. You might even want to know why so many journalists in the financial press put our No-Cost Windfall PEP* at the top of their list as a tax-free haven for conversion shares.

You can find out more by sending off the coupon or speaking to an Independent Financial Adviser. But why not just pick up the phone and give us a ring now? It's as easy as that.

To: Fidelity Investments, PO Box 88, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9DZ. Phone 0800 41 41 71. Please send the information on Fidelity's No-Cost Windfall PEP. We will not disclose any information outside the Fidelity Marketing Group.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel _____ TMW

0800 41 41 71

Call free Sun to Mon. 7 days. Fax: 01737 836 980. <http://www.fid-invt.com/uk>



Fidelity Investments

JOIN THE WORLD'S NO.1

*Investors who held no other Fidelity products by 31/03/97 will be charged 2% annually from 31/03/97. The PEP fund you select may carry an initial charge. Resources and assets are as at 30/04/97 and include resources of FIM Corp, a US company and affiliate. Past performance is no guarantee of future success. The value of investments and income from them can go down as well as up and an investor may not get back the amount invested. Tax consequences can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Fidelity only provides information about its products and will not give investment advice. Fidelity Investments Ltd, regulated by FSA and the Financial Services Authority.

Karen Zagor, Caroline Merrell and Anne Ashworth on how tax changes may hit the Blairs

Tax time for the first family

The Blair family is set to see more than its surroundings change after the move into 11 Downing Street. The first Budget of the new Government, which is likely to take place in July will make the Chancellor Gordon Brown's views on family taxation clear.

The effect on the Blairs and other middle class families with above average income could be far reaching. Some of the most widely rumoured tax changes forecast to be included in the Budget could leave Blairs £10,200 worse off. This could mean Cornwall rather than Tuscany for the family holiday this summer.

There is speculation that Mr Brown will seek to cut the value of the personal allowances, the amounts individuals can earn before paying tax. He could reduce them to the 23 per cent basic rate of tax, so raising £1.6 billion, says Maurice Fitzpatrick of Chantrey Vellacott, the accountant. This tax change alone would mean an extra £687 in tax each year for Mr and Mrs Blair.

THE BLAIR TAX BILL

Tony Blair, as revealed on Thursday, is entitled to an annual salary of £146,860, but



he has turned this down, saying he will take only £102,000. He can afford this pay restraint since Cherie is the family's main breadwinner. As a high-powered QC, she is capable of earning at least £250,000 a year.

At present Tony and Cherie like everyone else, have a personal allowance of £4,045 each. This reduces Tony's taxable earnings to £97,955 and Cherie's to £245,955.

Under the current tax regime, the first £4,100 after the personal allowance is taxed at 20 per cent, the next £22,000 is taxed at 23 per cent and any further earnings are taxed at 40 per cent. This results in a tax bill of £34,622.

Sarah Powell, tax consultant at KPMG, the accountant, said that if Cherie contributes the maximum permitted to a personal pension, her taxable liabilities will be £73,822.

National Insurance contributions deplete Tony's take-home pay by a further £2,160.08. Cherie would pay self-employed National Insurance of £1,344.80.

The Blair family's considerable tax burden is offset somewhat by a number of standard reliefs. Provided a couple is married, one person can claim the married couple's allowance which currently stands at £274.50 (15 per cent

of £1,830). Child benefit of £11.05 a week for the eldest and £9 for each subsequent child boosts Cherie's bank account by £1,510.60 a year.

Miras, given at the rate of 15 per cent on the first £30,000 of loans shaves another £326.25 off the annual tax bill, assuming interest rates of 7.25 per cent per annum.

Assuming that Mr Brown moves, as forecasted, to cut back personal allowances and

pension reliefs to 23 per cent, and abolishes Miras, the Blairs would be left rather poorer, £10,200 poorer to be exact, Mr Fitzpatrick calculates that Tony would lose £1,013 and Cherie some £9,187.

She may be forced to go next door and personally lobby the Chancellor to give tax breaks on childcare — a concession available to high-earning Canadian mothers but not to their British counterparts.

HOW MUCH IS IT WORTH?

Gordon Brown has pledged not to raise the income tax rates from their current level of 23 per cent (basic rate) and 40 per cent (higher rate). But as well as reducing the value of the personal allowances (see left), he could take other measures that would dent your spending power. The likely changes are now the subject of fevered speculation in the offices of accountants and financial advisers. The forecast changes include:

■ The reform of Capital Gains Tax. At present, everyone can have £6,500 a year worth of capital gains before paying tax. The new Government could reduce the annual exemption, and introduce tiered rates, allowing those who have held assets for a period of time to pay lower rates of tax.

■ Beside limiting the reliefs on pension contributions, Mr Brown could cut the rate of Advanced Corporation Tax, so reducing the return on your pension fund and personal equity plans.

But many of the UK's biggest pension schemes have voiced their opposition to any such move.

■ Labour, while in opposition, pledged many times that it would not abolish Peps or Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts (Tessas) if it came to power. However, it is possible that a lifetime limit could be imposed on the amount invested in Tessas and Peps, as Labour prepares to launch its own stakeholder account. For Tessa best buys, see page 40. BEST Investment (0171-321 0100) also provides lists of Peps best buys.

■ Some £2.5 billion could be raised by an increase in insurance premium tax from 4 per cent to 12.5 per cent. This would cost the average household an extra £90 a year, more if you live in a high crime area with expensive household premiums. Chancellors feel safe raising insurance premium tax, because policyholders tend to blame the insurance companies for their higher bills, not the Government.

■ The Blairs and other inhabitants of expensive homes could be affected by a new higher band of council tax for homes worth more than £500,000. Band H currently covers homes valued from £320,000.

ANNE ASHWORTH AND CAROLINE MERRELL

The Personal Investment Authority has been forced to don its overalls and give the market in traded endowments a thorough MOT, amid fears that the trade in second-hand policies is fast developing the worst traits of the trade in second-hand cars.

Central to the concerns is the lack of clear information for both investors surrendering policies and those buying them in the secondary market. The fear is that while the first group is not getting paid enough, the latter is paying too much for investment performance that might not be there. To push the car analogy further, sellers of Rolls-Royces are getting Skoda prices while buyers of Ferraris are getting Robin Relians.

Every year about 60,000 people decide to stop paying into endowment policies because they have changed their mortgage, or because they desperately need the money to pay off debts when they are made redundant or as part of a divorce settlement. Many sell the policies back to the life and insurance companies that issued them and get a raw deal. Although companies have raised surrender values

For sale: used policy, not such a nice runner

by 30 per cent in recent years, they are still about 15 per cent less than those available from market-makers such as Beale Dobie, Securitized Endowment Contracts and Policy Portfolio. As the average endowment sold is worth £10,000, this is a potential loss of at least £1,000 per person.

Market-makers offer particularly good deals on endowments from companies such as Royal Life and SunLife of Canada, which pay low surrender values to keep as much money as possible for people who hold their policies until maturity. Of course, like all middle men, market-makers take their cut, and are choosy about the policies they take on. Beale Dobie, for instance, only buys policies worth at least £2,000 which have run for at least seven years — this is only 10 per cent of available policies. If you have to surrender early you will probably have to accept the price offered by the issuer. The

Association of Policy Market Makers, their trade body, wants endowment providers to publicise their market. It points to the fact that although the traded endowment policy (Tep) market has grown rapidly from nothing to nearly £250 million in just ten years, it is still a fraction of the £800 million of policies surrendered each year.

However, many life and insurance companies believe publicising the market will only encourage people to act against their own interest. Wherever they sell, policyholders are not going to gain much compared with the price of the premiums they have already paid. Sticking with the endowment is better in the long run. Companies also fear that the Tep is overvalued and will create many disgruntled investors in the long term. The Tep market has recently displayed worrying signs of overheating. Specialist trusts run by BZW, Kleinwort

Benson and Scottish Value Management, which invest in Teps, have seen their share prices rise to a premium — a highly unusual feat for investment trusts where huge discounts are the norm.

More disturbingly, part of the recent rises in Tep prices has been laid at the door of unscrupulous providers of geared endowment plans. Here investors are encouraged to use the Tep as collateral with which to borrow money from a bank in order to buy more Teps. In this way £10,000 can buy three times that in policies, pushing potential annual capital growth up to 16 per cent. The inherent risk of this is exacerbated by the fact that some providers are believed to be changing investors almost double what the policies are really worth. Despite this, Teps are attractive because they can be an efficient and relatively low risk way of

timing a tax-free lump sum when you want it. Taking on somebody else's endowment and paying the premiums until maturity can be particularly useful when planning school and university fees. Traditional with-profit endowment policies — which form the backbone of the Tep market — smooth the returns from a diverse bag of assets which includes shares, property and cash. Last year they achieved an annual average return of 9 per cent.

The price of a Tep is determined by various factors, including the length the policy has yet to run and the basic guaranteed sum it will pay at the end. However, unknown factors, such as the performance of the underlying investments and the amount that the issuer will pay in bonuses, are critical. Life insurance companies have steadily cut bonuses since the end of the 1980s as inflation has come down. David Beale, of Beale

Dobie, says the annual real rate of return from Teps will fall slightly from 9 per cent over the next year.

How much of this is known to investors is unsure. Many mistakenly take the average discount rate that market-makers use in their calculations as a projection of future growth: it is not.

Faced with the different demands of sellers and buyers, the PIA has a difficult balancing act. Richard Cockcroft, the regulator's head of market practice, says: "There are two parties in any market, the buyer and seller."

If we take action to improve the situation for one, it could harm the interests of the other. Nevertheless, he is considering proposals to provide Tep investors with an explanatory key features document at the point of sale. This would include growth projections and details of charges and market makers fees and would be given on an equal footing with buyers of new endowments. Expect this one to roll out of the PIA workshop at the end of the year.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

£200,000 Life Cover For As Little As 55p A Day*

You may already have enough life assurance cover to pay off the mortgage should anything happen to you. But how would your partner cope with all the other costs of living?

According to the Family Expenditure Survey 1994/5 (the latest available published figures), the average family spends £917 a month on things such as groceries, bills, clothing and leisure activities.

We know that no amount of money could ever replace your love for your dependants. However, from as little as 55p a day* you can cover their future with General Accident.

Term Assurance provides affordable life assurance protection for a fixed period, with a guaranteed cash sum payable on death during that period.

For a payment of only £17.00 a month* a General Accident Term Assurance policy can provide cover of £200,000 for 10 years, and what's more, your personal monthly premium is guaranteed never to increase.

An investment of £200,000 in a bank or building society would mean that your family could be sure of an income of £13,200 a year or £1,000 per month. And that income is over and above the initial £200,000 investment which would remain intact.*

SO WITH ALL THESE EVERYDAY EXPENSES HOW COULD YOUR FAMILY MANAGE WITHOUT IT?

Call General Accident now to secure your family's future, and receive further information on Term Assurance and a personal illustration.

We'll also send you a FREE GIFT of a stylish Pen and Pencil set plus details of how to claim a second free gift — a choice of a Black and Decker Cordless Screwdriver, a Custom Monaco Roll Bag or a Casio Travel Clock Radio Alarm.

This offer applies if you are aged between 20 and 55 inclusive.

* Based on a healthy male, non-smoker, aged 30 next birthday. The cost of cover will depend on age, sex and smoking status.

Source: Micropal. Based on a UK savings account for investments of £2,500 and over, 10 years to 2.9%.

Full written details are available on request.

Any financial advice given will relate only to the products of General Accident Life.

General Accident Life Assurance Limited
2 Rongier Street, York YO1 1HR

General Accident Life is regulated by the
Personal Investment Authority

KEY PROTECTION FROM
THE
KEY PEOPLE

ACT NOW!
TO REQUEST FURTHER
DETAILS AND YOUR FREE GIFT

CALL FREE:
LINES OPEN 24 HOURS
0500 100 200

Or complete the coupon and send to:
Term Assurance, General Accident,
FREEPOST, YO550, YORK YO1 1BR.

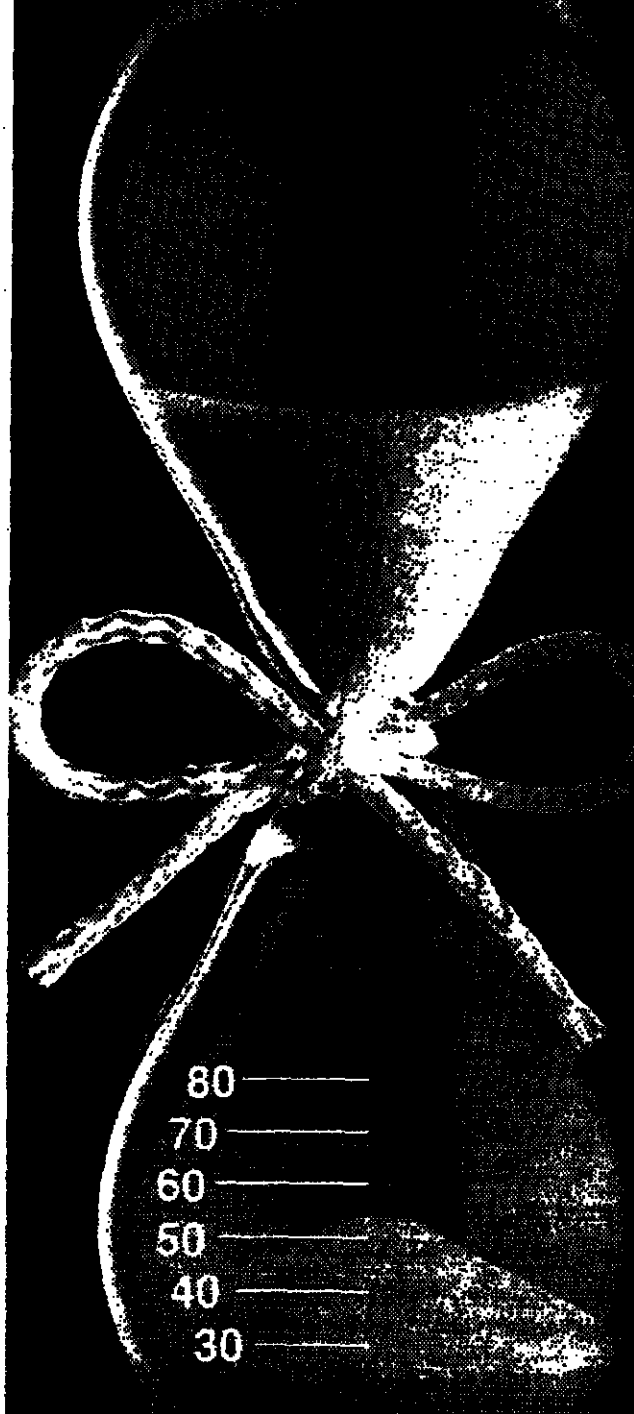
Title Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____
Forename(s) _____
Surname _____
Address _____
Post Code _____
You may telephone me on: _____
Daytime _____ Evening _____
Date of Birth ____/____/____ Smoker ☐ Non-Smoker ☐
(Note: a non-smoker is a person who has not used any tobacco products in the last 12 months.)
The above details are required in order to give you a personalised illustration. We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you, by post or phone, about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated GA Group companies. Tick the box ☐ if you would prefer not to receive this information. For your security, your call with General Accident will be recorded and may be monitored.
Registered in England No. 226742 2 Rongier Street, York YO1 1HR.

General Accident

Private Medical Insurance that makes time stand still for the over 50's

Just take a moment to consider this. If you commence your private medical insurance with Exeter Friendly Society at say 52, you'll pay the subscriptions of a 52 year old for life. How many other private medical insurers make you such an offer? You see, at Exeter we never increase your subscriptions simply because you get older, which can save huge amounts over the years. Because we are a friendly society, with no shareholders to pay, all surpluses are utilised to improve benefits for Members. For full details, please telephone, fax or return the coupon.

WE MAKE YOU FEEL SO YOUNG



80
70
60
50
40
30

Caroline Merrell on the positive impact of the Chancellor's first actions



The world was under alien threat in the film *Independence Day* but savers could benefit from this week's move to grant the Bank of England independence to set interest rates

A winning move for savers

Halifax Building Society has much to thank Gordon Brown for. The immediate 0.25 point increase in base rates and the Chancellor's move to grant the Bank of England independence gave the Halifax the excuse it needed to raise its savings rates.

The savings world is full of rumours that the newly quoted Alliance & Leicester is seeing customers decamp to seek better returns. The Halifax is more than eager to keep its savers after flotation.

Since the announcement of the society's flotation more than two-and-a-half years ago, its 15 million savers have seen interest rates dwindle. Its instant access account, for instance, now pays interest of 2.45 per cent on balances of £1,000. This is half the rate offered by other instant access accounts. *Sainsbury's* offers 5.75 per cent, Skipton Building Society offers 4 per cent, and Portman Building Society offers 4.7 per cent. Even if the Halifax increases savings rates by 0.25 points, bringing the instant access rate to 2.8 per cent, a saver with £10,000 will get only £35 a year extra interest. This looks even more miserly compared with inflation of 2.6 per cent, giving real returns of just 0.2 per cent.

The increase in savings rates will come just before the Halifax makes its stock market debut. The flotation is sure to lead many of its savers into trying to find a more lucrative home for their savings.

The Halifax is refusing to say how much it intends to increase its rates. However, even if rate on its instant access account moves to 2.8 per cent, this rate is still lower than its competitors.

SAVINGS: Abbey National also announced that it intended to raise its savings

rates. Currently, Abbey offers its instant access savers a rate of 2.5 per cent. Skipton and Bradford & Bingley, both of which offer competitive savings rates, also said they intend to push up savings rates.

Nationwide, the UK's second-biggest building society, said that it was taking a wait-and-see attitude to rates. Its instant access account, for instance, offers an interest rate of 3 per cent on balances of £1,000. This society, along with the other mutuals, such as Bradford & Bingley, Skipton and Portman, has pledged that it will offer the best savings rates.

Bristol & West, which is in the process of being taken over by the Bank of Ireland, was the first to increase savings rates. It put up the rates on its tracker bond to 6.05 per cent, an increase of 0.25 points. It is to increase rates on the rest of its savings accounts shortly.

Other savings and income products have yet to benefit from the 0.25 per cent rise in interest rates. National Savings, which offers a range of fixed-interest products, with rates of up to 7 per cent on its 3rd Series Pensioners Bond, said that it had no intention of changing rates.

GILTS AND BONDS: Other winners following the Chancellor's move are those who hold gilts and corporate bonds, either directly or through a personal equity plan (PEP). Many foreign investors and UK pension funds bought longer-dated gilts immediately after the announcement of an independent Bank. Gilt buyers believed that taking the politics out of interest rate decisions would be better for inflation.

The Bank of England is more likely than the Government to increase interest rates immediately to control inflation.

Lower inflation means that gilts will maintain their value over the longer term. The rise in the price of gilts immediately led to a drop in the yield. Theodoros Zemek, manager of M&G's fixed-interest trusts, said: "We saw the yields on five-year gilts drop to 7 per cent from 7.75 per cent immediately following the announcement. It was an acknowledgement that the market welcomed the fact the bank was now free to pursue its own interest rates policy."

Ms Zemek believes that there could still be some further rises in the prices of longer-term gilts. She said: "UK gilts are still looking cheap compared to the fixed interest securities offered by other European governments, such as Spain and Germany."

Tim Cockerill, director of Whitechurch Securities, the independent financial adviser, said: "An independent Bank will mean that inflation will stay down, which is why the longer-term gilts immediately jumped in price. Shorter-dated gilts lost some value because of the increase in interest rates. They lost some of their competitive advantage over cash deposits offered by banks and building societies."

He advised investors hoping to put money into gilts to look at the longer-term products. He said: "I would look at the longer end of the gilt market quite seriously. If you are taking a long-term view, you could well see the trend of rising prices continue. It has definitely been set in motion, yields will fall and capital values will rise. However, any buying of longer-term gilts should be approached with caution."

CORPORATE BONDS: Corporate bond Peps have also done well out of the Chancellor's move. The yields on corporate bonds are linked to

the yields on gilts. Corporate bonds are fixed-interest securities issued by companies such as ICI and Commercial Union. They will tend to have a higher yield because they are deemed to be riskier than gilts.

Some corporate bond Peps jumped as much as 3 per cent in value at the beginning of the week after the announcement. Those Peps that did best were

those with a high proportion of their investment held in gilts and corporate bonds. Other corporate bond Peps, holding a high proportion in convertible and preference shares, and UK equities did not experience the same sort of increase. Mr Cockerill said an independent Bank was bound to make interest rates more volatile as the Bank would act

with more alacrity to ease inflationary pressures.

He said: "An independent Bank is almost a trial run for monetary union. It will have a knock-on effect to our approach. The Bank must read inflation changes correctly — more movement, less pressure to keep interest rates down. It has been depoliticised so that has to be a good move."



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

Put pensions on pole position

The new Chancellor has already shown himself to be audacious. John Denham and Frank Field, the two ministers now responsible for pensions, should prove themselves as bold in their reforms. They must encourage the nation to make pension saving a priority. Their aim will be accomplished when 25-year-olds show as much interest in pensions, as in cars, discussing the relative merits of Equitable Life and NPL in the same way that they now compare the Mazda MX5 and the Golf VR6.

But Messrs Denham and Field should not concentrate all their efforts on ensuring that the young invest enough for the day when the Mazda makes way for the Metro. They should also consider persons close to retirement who can face as many tricky pension decisions as those in their twenties.

To date, those pronouncing on pensions have failed to emphasise that choosing the annuity from which your pension will be paid can be as fraught with risk as selecting a personal pension. Most choose the annuity offered by the insurance company which has invested their pension contributions, unaware that they are free to seek quotes from competitors, with potentially more generous rates. The difference between offers may be as much as 10 per cent, or the Metro's annual running costs.

Most are also ignorant of the importance of good timing, of how annuity rates depend on the moods of the gilt market. This week, annuity rates have fallen, as gilt prices rose (see page 39). Unfortunate annuitants who opted to retire in early May rather than in late April have seen a drop of 6 per cent in their expected income.

Various small changes could make the £4 billion annuity market less impenetrable. For example, insurance companies should be obliged to make it more clear to customers that they have a choice and can purchase their annuity elsewhere. Some believe that companies should also be compelled to reveal how their rates compare with those of competitors. What point the ideal pension fund if your pension is poor?

Best-buy bound

The Nationwide is said to be attracting as much as half a million pounds a day in deposits from the newly quoted Alliance & Leicester. Halifax savers of an indolent turn can now relax. When their society floats, they will have no need to go to the bother of moving their money for a better rate. Rather than see millions decamp to mutuals, the Halifax will be forced, however reluctantly, to improve significantly its parsimonious rates and to appear for the first time on the savers' best buy tables.

WE'LL MAKE ALL YOUR MONEY WORK FOR YOU—JUST DIVE FOR THE PHONE

NEW C&G INSTANT TRANSFER ACCOUNT

... high interest and have no penalties.

6.0%
ON £1,000 OR MORE

Link your Instant Transfer account to your selected bank account and transfer your money between them whenever you like, with just a

£1,000 to earn 6.00% gross p.a. Many building societies and banks offer interest from the day we open your account. We'll be happy to pay you interest on investments of £5,000 or more.

Transfer your money—open your Instant Transfer account today, by post.

- Transfer money from your bank to your investment account — by phone.
- Instant, penalty-free access.
- Interest earned from day one.
- Open by post or at your nearest C&G branch.
- Call free for more details on 0800 74 24 37, fax on 01452 37 36 81 or www.cheltglos.co.uk

C&G

Cheltenham & Gloucester

Run to make you richer

Return this coupon, using first-class post, to:
C&G Invest Direct, PO Box 116, Farcham, Hants PO15 3LT.

Please send me information ☐

UK resident ☐ to invest in a C&G Instant Transfer account (minimum balance £1,000, maximum £5 million)

Please give details of your bank account you wish to link to your Instant Transfer account.

Sort code

Bank account no.

Account name

Full name(s)

(1) Mr/Ms/Ms

(2) Mr/Ms/Ms

Address

Postcode Tel. T 185

Signed (1st applicant)

Signed (2nd applicant)

Interest will be paid monthly on the day of the month following the month in which the money is transferred. Interest will be paid on the day of the month following the month in which the money is transferred. Interest will be paid on the day of the month following the month in which the money is transferred.

NEW LABOUR. NEW PEP?

Now we all know the result of the General Election. But no-one knows what it means for PEPs.

While Chancellor Brown considers his tax options, this could be a good time to think about yours.

For details of our highly popular Growth Fund PEP, call us. Now.

0800 40 30 30

SAVE & PROSPER

<http://www.prosper.co.uk>

The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Save & Prosper Group is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and FIA. We only advise on products and services offered by the Fleming and Save & Prosper Marketing Group.

1856/003

The Index-Tracking PEP

WHAT MAKES LEGAL & GENERAL'S FTSE ALL-SHARE INDEX-TRACKING PEP THE BEST VALUE PEP OF ITS KIND ON THE MARKET?

A glance at the table will show that - since its launch just over one year ago - this Index-Tracking PEP from Legal & General has proved that it offers PEP investors unbeatable value for money.

It follows the FTSE All-Share Index. This Index reflects the performance of the entire stockmarket, so it reduces the risk of being over-exposed to shares which under-perform and lessen your return. In fact, £6,000 invested in the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP at launch would now be worth £7,879* compared to just £7,262* in the average UK Income & Growth Trust.

NO
initial charges
0.5%
annual management charge
NO
withdrawal fee

UNBEATABLE COSTS...

At just 0.5% p.a. you won't find a better value FTSE All-Share Index-Tracking PEP anywhere else. And there are still no initial charges or withdrawal fees to pay.

To find out more about the UK's best value FTSE All-Share Index-Tracking PEP, call now, or return the coupon opposite. Alternatively, you can contact us at <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH NOV 95 TO MAY 97

	ANNUAL CHARGE	GROWTH
Legal & General	0.50%	31.33%
FTSE 100	1.00%	30.13%
Investment Trusts	1.00%	29.96%
Income & Growth Trusts	1.00%	29.80%
UK Income & Growth Trusts	1.00%	29.80%

The FTSE All-Share Index-Tracking PEP that performs the best

(also costs the least)

TRANSFER YOUR ALLIANCE & LEICESTER SHARES FREE

Find out more now - Phone free **0500 11 66 22**

FREEPHONE 8am to 8pm WEEKDAYS 9am to 5pm WEEKENDS PLEASE QUOTE REF: B4DL03

For your protection calls will usually be recorded and monitored

Please send me full written details of the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP

Surname (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms)

Forename

Address

Postcode

Date of birth / /

Tel. No. Home

Tel. No. Work

If you already have any PEP investment, please tick here ☐ B4DL03

We must telephone you to make sure information requested has arrived safely, and that you are not over 18 years old. Please allow 10 working days for this. If you do not wish to be contacted, please tick here ☐



Marianne Curphey on decision day for Norwich policyholders



be rather distracting.

A small step for each policyholder, a giant leap for the Norwich Union, whose trading date has been set for June 16

To sell or not to sell

Norwich Union policyholders have just five weeks to decide whether they wish to sell or keep the free shares they will be allocated in the insurer's flotation.

The company this week named the date of trading as June 16, three months and 200 years since the mutual was established in East Anglia. It will join the FTSE 100 and All-Share indices on September 22 and will be valued at about £5 billion. The large index-tracking funds will want to include it in their portfolios, and analysts believe this will create extra demand for shares.

Several international insurers are believed to be looking at bidding for NU after flotation, and would have to pay a 25 per cent premium in any takeover. More than 2.9 million qualifying members will have the opportunity to trade in 1.3 billion free shares from June 16 and have until June 10 to decide whether to buy more at a discount. Justin Urquhart Stewart, of Barclays Stockbrokers, believes the shares are "a good long-term buy". He added: "With the expected changes in pensions legislation, this is one of the golden stocks to hold and the yield on the shares is likely to be attractive."

Jeremy Batstone, of NatWest Stockbrokers, described the NU offer as "a fantastic buying opportunity" and said NU was not highly rated compared with other insurance stocks currently on the market.

Qualifying policyholders stand to gain an average 300 and 400 shares worth between 220p and 265p with an initial estimated value of between £660

and £1,060. However, since the price was published in a policyholders' circular in March the market has risen strongly and most analysts forecast trading will begin at the top of that price range.

About 1.8 million with-profit policyholders will net an average of £800 worth of free shares. They will receive a minimum of 300 shares with additional shares based on the value and duration of their policies as at October 1, 1996.

A further million non-profit policyholders will receive a fixed allocation of 150 shares worth between £330 and £400.

The opening share price is likely to be buoyed up by a rising market, a shortage of demand and rumours of a hostile bidder waiting to pounce after flotation. The only dampener on the first day of trading could be Labour's imminent mini-Budget, which could contain changes to tax and pension laws.

Kleinwort Benson, NU's advisers, said a revised forecast of the NU flotation price would be included in a mini-prospectus to be sent to members on May 21. That date will also mark the beginning of a book-building exercise for institutions, which will be offered a proportion of the £1.75 billion worth of shares.

Existing NU members will be able to buy the shares at a discount, the size of which will be announced on May 21. Members need to return their application forms with payment by June 10. The minimum application for members is £400

and the maximum application for members is £100,000. The minimum application for non-members is £1,000. Non-members will be able to apply for shares under the retail offer but will not be eligible for a discount. Registrants will be sent a mini-prospectus on May 21.

A Norwich Union single company personal equity plan is being set up. There will be no initial charge, and for plans opened within 42 days of flotation, the first year's annual management fee will be waived.

The new company aims to raise £1.75 billion of fresh capital through an offer of new shares to members, institutions and other investors. Of this, £1.5 billion will be paid into the with-profit fund of NU's main UK life company. Institutional investors will be invited to bid for blocks of NU shares.

About 1,000 tonnes of paper will be mailed to policyholders between now and the first day of trading compared with the 5,000 tonnes for the Halifax float. Eligible UK residents who wish to receive further details on the NU single company PEP can call 0345 573831. Non-members can register by calling 0541 578578.

For more information on the Norwich Union members offer and public offer, for policies issued in the UK, Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man, there is a helpline on 0645 444818 or 44 541 501020 if you are outside the UK. For policies issued in Ireland members can call 1 850 334444 or if they are calling from outside Ireland 44 541 501020.

Serve your term — or pay

The marketing material for with-profits bonds is characteristically festooned with the sort of jargon for which the life insurance industry is famous. The product particulars are littered with terms like market value adjustment, reversionary and terminal bonus strategy and allocation rate. Yet despite the opacity of the literature, millions of investors have put billion of pounds in to with-profits bonds, rivaling the sums invested in unit trusts.

The planned flotation of Norwich Union has increased interest in these schemes, as thousands flock to buy bonds from

those insurance companies that appear to be the next most likely to float. Bonds from Friends Provident, Scottish Provident and NPI have become increasingly popular in the past few months. So popular for NPI, in

fact, that it has temporarily withdrawn from the market. The popularity of with-profits bonds does not mean their advantages and disadvantages are any better understood. The tax-free income on offer compares well with building society

deposit accounts. But if you try to withdraw your cash before the term ends, you may suffer an exit penalty. The terms of the bond may also allow the insurer to reduce your payout if markets fall, although, in principle, once added, bonuses should not be taken away. We answer your questions.

Q What are with-profits bonds?
A They are unit-linked investment products sold

by insurance companies and marketed by independent financial advisers. You will not get a tax-free lump sum at maturity, but you can take income tax-free (see below). However, James Higgins, of Chamberlain de Broe, the financial adviser, says changes to the taxation of investment products in the Budget may affect these bonds.

Q How do with-profits bonds work?
A A with-profits bond is simply a life insurance bond that attracts annual bonuses, which once given cannot be taken away. These are currently running at between 6.5 and 7.5 per cent, depending on the company offering the bond. Investors can withdraw income monthly. Some will also offer the possibility of an extra terminal bonus when the bond is cashed in. A long-term view is crucial. Five years should be the minimum investment time.

Q What are the bonds invested in?
A With-profits bonds invest in a mixture of gilts and equities. The gilts will provide the cash for those who need an income. The equity investment should ensure that the capital investment will not reduce too much.

Q How are the bonds taxed?
A Bonds are taxed as life insurance products. This means that the fund is taxed, not the income or the cash-in value of the bond. Basic-rate taxpayers and lower-rate taxpayers can take the income tax-free. Higher-rate taxpayers will have to pay some tax on the income taken, but some will be tax-free. Up to 5 per cent of the value of the bond can be withdrawn tax-free.

Q How does their tax position compare with personal equity plans?
A PEPs are free from both income and capital gains tax. This makes them more tax-efficient than with-profits bonds. Unlike a general PEP, it is possible to invest more than £5,000 a year in a bond.

Q How do the bonds differ from distribution bonds and guaranteed income bonds?
A Distribution bonds are not based on a with-profits fund. They will distribute income on a monthly or six-monthly basis. Guaranteed income bonds pay guaranteed levels of income for five years. The return of capital is guaranteed.

Q How do the bonds differ from distribution bonds and guaranteed income bonds?
A Distribution bonds are not based on a with-profits fund. They will distribute income on a monthly or six-monthly basis. Guaranteed income bonds pay guaranteed levels of income for five years. The return of capital is guaranteed.

Q How do the bonds differ from distribution bonds and guaranteed income bonds?
A Distribution bonds are not based on a with-profits fund. They will distribute income on a monthly or six-monthly basis. Guaranteed income bonds pay guaranteed levels of income for five years. The return of capital is guaranteed.

Q How do the bonds differ from distribution bonds and guaranteed income bonds?
A Distribution bonds are not based on a with-profits fund. They will distribute income on a monthly or six-monthly basis. Guaranteed income bonds pay guaranteed levels of income for five years. The return of capital is guaranteed.

Q How do the bonds differ from distribution bonds and guaranteed income bonds?
A Distribution bonds are not based on a with-profits fund. They will distribute income on a monthly or six-monthly basis. Guaranteed income bonds pay guaranteed levels of income for five years. The return of capital is guaranteed.

Q How do the bonds differ from distribution bonds and guaranteed income bonds?
A Distribution bonds are not based on a with-profits fund. They will distribute income on a monthly or six-monthly basis. Guaranteed income bonds pay guaranteed levels of income for five years. The return of capital is guaranteed.

Guaranteed income with guaranteed

Capital. No small print.

Initial Investment	100% Capital Guaranteed Net Income Rate p.a.	90% Capital Guaranteed Net Income Rate p.a.
£5,000 - £7,499	5.5%	7.2%
£7,500 - £9,999	5.75%	7.4%
£10,000 - £49,999	6%	7.7%
£50,000 - £99,999	6.1%	7.85%
£100,000+	6.2%	8%

- When you invest £5,000 or more in our Guaranteed Income Bond, we give you a choice of net income levels: From 5.5% up to 8% (depending on how much you invest).
- Income is paid monthly to you for 5 years.
- The Wesleyan's strong financial performance means there are prospects for additional capital growth.
- High payouts: we achieved 14 out of a possible 16 'top ten' ratings for endowments across a range of savings terms over the past 4 years (Source: Money Management: With Profits Survey, October 1996).
- We are a mutual company with over 150 years of experience and no shareholders so profits are re-invested for customers.

PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE

POST THE COUPON TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION, OR CALL FREE, MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM.

0800 281472

WESLEYAN FINANCIAL SERVICES

WESLEYAN ASSURANCE SOCIETY, PART OF THE WESLEYAN FINANCIAL SERVICES MARKETING GROUP IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Send to: Wesleyan Financial Services, FREEPOST MID.00001, Bradbeck Road, Off Cemetery Road, Bradford, BD7 1BR.

Name

Address

Postcode

Work

Home

No salesman will call you. Only our customer services team will aim to call you to ensure you have received your information pack.

CODE TB

The most diversified PEP?

Global Tracking PEP

Call local rates 0345 73 85 93 for a free information pack, quoting the reference below, or complete the coupon below in block capitals and return it to the stamp enclosed in the Global Tracking PEP.

Norwich Union Portfolio Services Ltd

FREEPOST ANG 4247

Norwich NR1 3PR

Tax free!

Name: _____ Ref: FTDS

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Daytime tel no: _____ Evening tel no: _____



INSURANCE INVESTMENTS HEALTHCARE PENSIONS

NORWICH UNION PORTFOLIO SERVICES LIMITED IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY AND REGULATED BY IMRO

CAROLINE MERRELL

Divorcee's Halifax hopes are dashed

With the approach of the Halifax 200th anniversary, now just 22 days away, there is a growing sense of resentment among those who feel themselves to have been deprived of benefiting from the £12 billion share distribution.

A new, disenfranchised group has emerged: divorced borrowers who have paid their mortgages faithfully but will not benefit because their former spouses remain the first named on the loan. Under the rules of all conversions, only the first named account holder is entitled to a payout.

Among those affected by this ruling is Frances Russell, a Times reader from Ealing, west London, who has now remarried after divorce from her first husband.

Although Mrs Russell has been solely responsible for the payments on her Halifax loan, taken out four years ago, she will not receive the basic distribution of shares because her former spouse was the first named account holder.

The entitlement to a payout has now been entirely lost because he has now taken out a new loan with another lender. However, Mrs Russell does not gain the right to a payout, because she was not the first named holder on the all-important qualifying date of November 25, 1994.

Mrs Russell said: "In June 1993, I took out a Halifax mortgage with my first husband. But, as we parted before we could begin living in the house, I moved in alone



The spouse left paying the mortgage may still miss the windfall, says Lizanne Rose

with my son, Franklin, who is now ten, and paid the mortgage myself from the beginning. Even though I was managing very well by myself, the Halifax would not allow me to transfer the property into my sole name as they considered that I did not earn enough."

She was surprised to discover that, had her first husband taken out a mortgage with the Halifax immediately after having his name removed from the joint mortgage, he would have been entitled to free shares.

When Mrs Russell wrote to challenge the decision, the Halifax replied that although the ruling did "produce winners and losers, there was no practicable alternative". However, Mrs Russell feels that this does not answer her specific case. "I find it difficult to



Double whammy: Frances Russell lost both husband and shares

believe that the building society can just elect to treat borrowing members in an unequal way," she said. "This has made me feel very much like a second-class citizen."

■ HALIFAX: customers who are borrowers only are entitled to the basic distribution of 200 shares. At the minimum "floor" price of 45p, these will be worth £90. But analysts now estimate that the price could soar to more than 600p. A Halifax borrower will receive the basic distribution if he or she was the sole or first named mortgage account with a total debt outstanding of at least £100 at midnight on November 25, 1994 and December 31, 1996. The borrower must remain with the Halifax until midnight on the day before conversion on June 2.

■ WOOLWICH: borrowers will qualify for the basic distribution of 450

■ BRISTOL & WEST: borrowers fare less well than their counterparts at other societies, receiving 250 B&W preference shares. What these will be worth is uncertain. Borrowers will qualify if they were the first named mortgage account holder between December 31, 1996 and April 15, 1997, with an outstanding debt of at least £100 at December 31, 1996. They must owe a minimum of £100 both on June 15, 1997 and on the day before the conversion date, expected to be July 28, 1997.

■ NORTHERN ROCK: all qualifying Northern Rock savers and borrowers will receive an equal distribution of 500 shares. In order to qualify, borrowers had to be the first named mortgage

account holder with a debt outstanding of at least £1 at midnight on April 2, 1996, December 31, 1996 and on the final qualifying date to be announced.

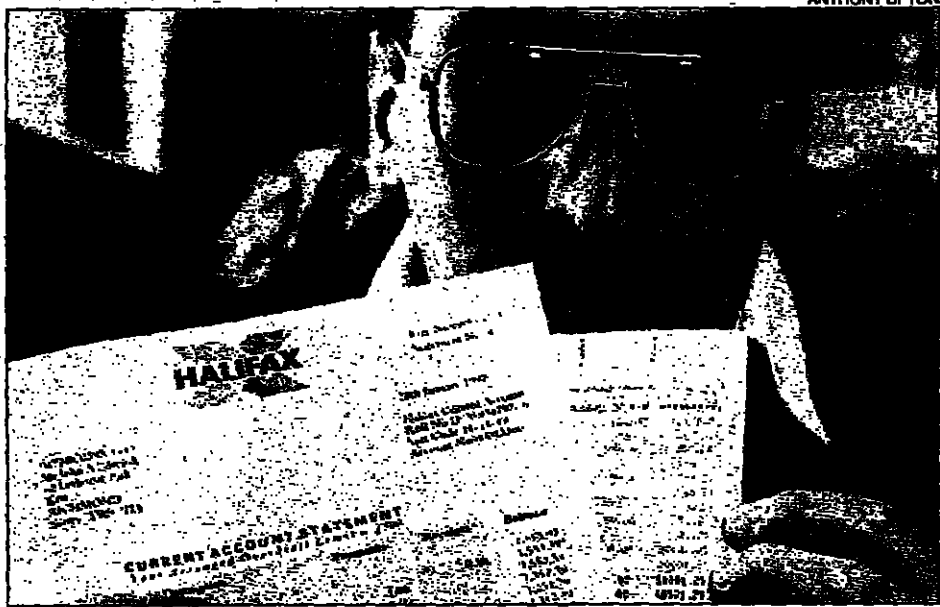
Hard lesson in small print

Read the small print of literature from converting building societies and be wary of the advice you get from its Helpline is the message from disgruntled reader John Edwards. He claims he missed out on 981 free Halifax shares, worth £4,000, because of bad advice from the society.

Whether Mr Edwards was actually misled by the society is a subject of debate. After discussing the matter with Mr Edwards, the Halifax has decided that it is not culpable, so last week Mr Edwards filed a county court summons for restitution. Whatever the outcome, members of any society changing its status would do well to keep the circumstances in mind.

The dispute centres on the date Mr Edwards needed to have at least £100 in a qualifying account to be eligible for the free shares. According to Mr Edwards, "I phoned the Halifax Helpline at the end of November last year because I was not quite sure what I needed to do to get the free shares."

"At the time I had £1,550 in my Halifax current account. I knew it was not a qualifying account and wanted to know the dates so that I could



John Edwards and the Halifax accounts which he claims have cost him £4,000

transfer money into my qualifying account on time.

"I was told that the money needed to be in my account in February 1997, but that the date had yet to be announced. As a result of this advice, my qualifying building society account did not have the required £100 on December 31, 1996, which was one of the qualifying dates for shares."

"The criteria for qualifying were not absolutely clear. For example, the timetable in the booklet sent to members did not mention the December 31 date. That date only appeared on page 21. Unfortunately I rang the Helpline before I got to page 21 and, when I was told the important date to top up the account was in February, I did not continue reading."

Mr Edwards is particularly outraged because he had more than enough money sitting in a non-qualifying account to top up his qualifying account to the minimum £100.

Mr Edwards says he still has the notes he made during the Helpline conversation and that he even has a witness, a friend who heard the conversation and saw him write the notes, but the Halifax does not believe this is sufficient evidence to support his claim of misinformation.

"Unfortunately we don't record Helpline calls so we cannot comment on what was actually said," says a spokeswoman. "It is possible that Mr Edwards asked about the date he needed to top up his balance to receive the maximum number of shares, and that would have been February."

"Mr Edwards has been through our complaints procedure here and his case has been investigated. If he is not satisfied he is at liberty to go to the Ombudsman." The society notes that Mr Edwards would have received correspondence spelling out the need to top up the account in December. "We will deal with the writ as and when it comes through," the spokeswoman said.

Meanwhile, for building society members expecting to receive a windfall, the moral is clear. Do not rely on what you hear, or think you hear, from the Helpline. Instead, read all the literature from the society and keep the minimum amount necessary to qualify in your account.

KAREN ZAGOR

Beware attractive windfall offers attached to high-cost, under-performing PEPs. Check out Virgin Direct's free tax-avoiding Windfall Offer. New Virgin customers must invest an extra £1,000 to qualify. Call now.

Virgin direct
personal financial service

0345 95 95 95

Open seven days a week from 9am to 10pm

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. For the Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service, a minimum investment of £1,000 is required. The price of shares and any income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back all the money you invest. The basis of the offer is that the value of the two benefit descriptors on now much tax you save for your security. All calls to Virgin Direct will be recorded and randomly monitored.

**DON'T
OVERTAX
YOURSELF.
INVEST IN
YOUR
PEP
MONTHLY.**

You work hard enough as it is, so isn't it time you let your spare income work hard for you?

Invest in a Schroder PEP, regular investment plan, with a monthly Direct Debit. Then you could join the thousands of investors who have profited from our award-winning track record of consistent, high performance.

You can relax in the knowledge that your capital won't be tied up. We'll alter or suspend your monthly investments as you wish. And now you can add or exchange any 'free' shares you receive from one of the Building Society share offers.

All you have to do is pick up the phone, or a pair of scissors. Stressful, isn't it?

0800 526 535

Quoting ref 397

TO: SCHRODERS,
CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPT.,
0397 FREEPOST, LON 7109,
LONDON EC4B 4PD.

Please send me my free copy of the Schroder 1997/98 PEP brochure, including information on regular investment. Alternatively, contact your usual Financial Adviser.

Name

Address

Postcode

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the money originally invested. The levels and bases of, and relief from, taxation may change. Tax relief referred to are those currently available and their value depends on the circumstances of the individual investor.

Issued by Schroder Investment Management Limited, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL. Regulated by IMRO. On the internet at www.schroders.com

Schroders

**A NEW FUND
FROM A
GALAXY
OF STARS**

A tailor-made opportunity for your windfall

JUPITER FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

Launch on 13th May with 1% discount on unit trust investments to 2nd June

PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH OF ALL JUPITER'S FUNDS AVAILABLE IN A PEP			
Jupiter fund	Launch date	Sector Ranking	Annualised Return
Jupiter Income	Aug 97	1st / 67	13.8%
Jupiter European	Aug 97	1st / 74	16.9%
Jupiter UK Growth	Apr 98	1st / 97	17.5%
Jupiter Ecology	Apr 98	38th / 92	10.6%
Jupiter High Income	Jan 96	2nd / 44	12.3%
Jupiter UK Special Situations	May 96	4th / 159	note 2
Jupiter Fund of Investment Trusts	Nov 96	1st / 15	note 3

1 Average annual compound growth
2 Growth 18.4% in 11 months since launch
3 Growth 13.2% in 5 months since launch
All figures offer to bid, net income reinvested, launch dates to 1.5.97. Source: Mirostat

Rather than hold a single 'windfall' share, why not switch the investment into a new tailor-made fund from Jupiter? Their funds have star performance records as you can see from the table opposite.

The new Jupiter Financial Opportunities Fund can pick the most promising investments from right across the financial sector. It is a sector which is flourishing with flotations, mergers and deregulation all playing a part. Increased saving for retirement is creating profit potential for financial companies, while new technology is cutting costs. We believe that this is a first-class investment opportunity.

The adviser to the fund will be Philip Gibbs - widely regarded by the investment industry as a top Financial Sector Analyst.*

So if you want your windfall to take off with this fund, consider being on board for this Jupiter launch.

For details of the new Fund and our Windfall PEP (total PEP discount 1%), talk to your financial adviser, call us free or return the coupon.

JUPITER
Leaders in long-term performance

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 0500 0540 97

*Based on survey since 1988, Reuters survey since 1995, Institutional Investor survey since 1992. Annual compound growth and sector ranking, 5 years to 1.5.97: Jupiter Income 24.5% 1/67; Jupiter European 25.2% 1/74; Jupiter UK Growth 21.6% 1/97; Jupiter Ecology 12.6% 38/92.

To: Investor Support, Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB.

Please send me further information on: ☐ The Jupiter Financial Opportunities Fund ☐ The Jupiter Windfall PEP ☐ Jupiter Unit Trusts ☐

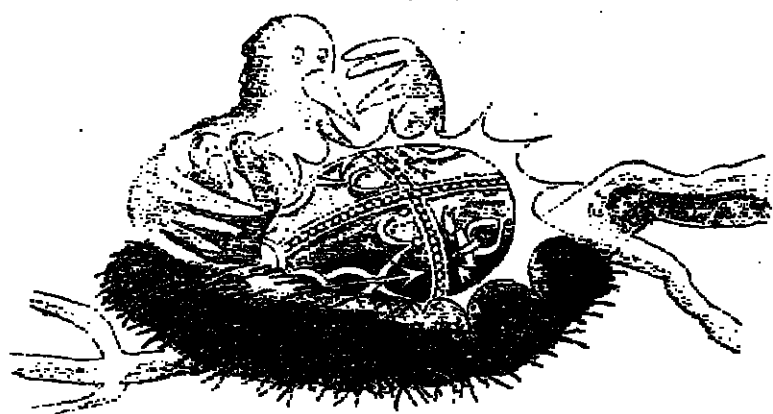
Print Name (Mr/Ms/Ms)

Address

Post Code

Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd is regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Member of ALITE A subsidiary of Commerzbank AG, one of Germany's leading banks. Building Society 'windfall' shares will be recommended in the Jupiter PEP. They must be sold and the proceeds invested into the Jupiter PEP fund of your choice. It should always be remembered that the value of an investment in a unit trust and the income from it can go down as well as up, it may be affected by exchange rate variations, and you may not get back the amount invested. Current tax levels and reliefs may change and their value will depend on your individual circumstances. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Up to 100% of the annual management fee is to be taken from capital of Income Trust and High Income Fund. This may accordingly restrict capital growth. Copies of the half-yearly and annual reports may be obtained from Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB. Scheme particulars and key features documents may also be obtained from that address.

WINDFALL SHARES IN A TAX-FREE PEP



Turn your windfall into an extra special nest egg.

Over 15 million fortunate people will be receiving free 'Windfall Shares' from building societies and life insurers in the coming months. But, they're also lucky in another crucial way... the Inland Revenue is allowing them to shelter these holdings in a 1997/98 PEP, thereby creating tax-free growth! And, windfall proceeds are not counted against their already generous annual PEP allowances. The SIT PEP offers the potential for impressive returns, in a professionally selected nest-egg of 'blue chip' global equities. So, you could turn a single UK shareholding into your own tax-efficient international portfolio. There is a regulatory 42-day time limit for windfall transfers, so don't delay!

It's amazing how some nest-eggs hatch into dreams.

THE SCOTTISH INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

INVESTMENT MADE EASY

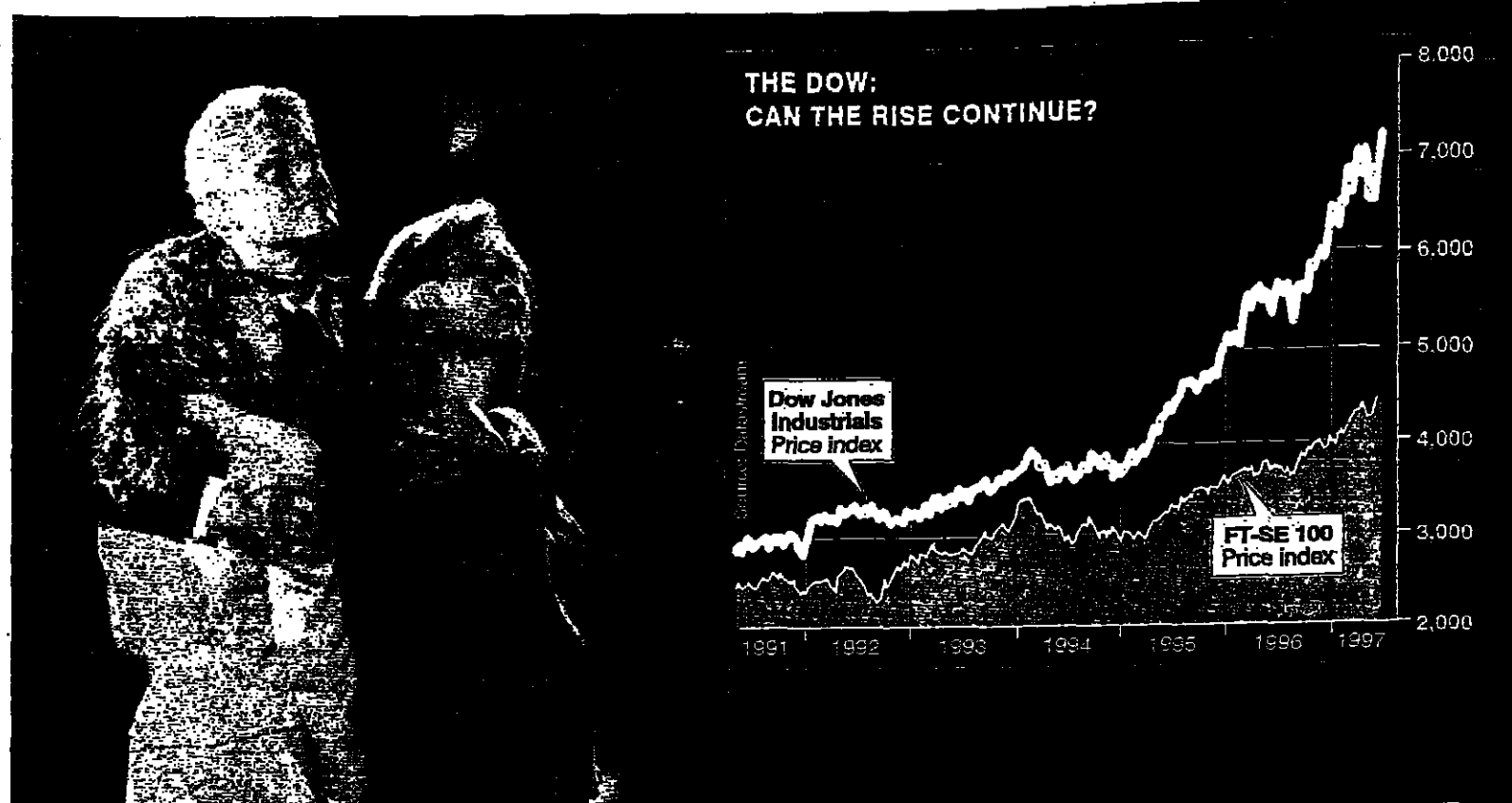
Please send me details of The SIT PEP and the Windfall Share Exchange Offer...

NAME (Mandatory)
Address
Postcode

SIT Savings Ltd, FREEPOST 84882, 6 Albany Place, Edinburgh EH2 0DH. For a brochure on our CHARGE FREE Investment and Savings Scheme tick here

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREE 0800 424422

Advertisement issued by SIT Savings Ltd a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Scottish Investment Trust PLC and regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.



Boom or bust with the Dow?

Experts are divided over which way the US stock market will go, says Nathan Yates

The US market is on the crest of an unprecedented six-year surge. This week the Dow Jones industrial average peaked at a record 7,214.49 points, more than 4,000 points up on its level in May 1991.

For investors, selling now would be a brave choice. It could also be the best one. In spite of excellent economic performance figures, underlying trends mean that many analysts and fund managers are gearing up for at best a slowdown and, at worst, a crash.

In the first quarter of this year, US GDP growth was at a rapid 5.6 per cent, but inflation remained low at 2.7 per cent. The picture resembles the much-coveted "Goldilocks economy," not too hot and not too cold, like the fairy tale heroine's porridge. But some analysts are unpersuaded. George Magnus of UBS says: "The US equity market is on dangerous ground. We predict that the Dow Jones will sink to 6,500 points by year end, and the further it climbs meantime, the more likely there will be a crash. A correction of 10 per cent is highly probable."

Mr Magnus believes that the US market is at the top of the business cycle. Strong growth has boosted demand for labour, goods and services, which will soon outstrip supply.

Wages and prices will rise, and the only way to control inflation will be to raise interest rates. The Federal Reserve, America's central bank, could decide to increase rates as early as May 20. When interest rates are pushed

high enough, a market fall will follow. UBS claims that this top-of-cycle scenario is being obscured by several factors. Foremost among these is a freak worldwide situation in which the three main trading blocks — the US, Europe and Japan — have moved out of synchronisation. German reunification has upset the business cycle in Europe, and Japan has been hit by a collapse in property prices.

With the other two main economic powers in relative recession, US growth has been offset by weaker demand elsewhere, and prices have been held down. UBS says that the three trading blocks are beginning to converge again as Europe and Japan recover. The IMF forecasts world growth will accelerate to 4 per cent in 1997 and 1998, and the international brakes could soon be removed from US prices. In addition, US wages have been held down by job insecurity.

But with unemployment now at 4.9 per cent of the population, the lowest for a generation, those who lose their jobs can expect to find new work quickly. Worker confidence is growing, and figures released this week show a 4.7 per cent leap in hourly pay, the largest increase for five years. Some of the recent wage rises have been offset

by improvements in productivity. Though US workers may be paid more, they produce more goods per hour than they did before the boom, and this has kept down the total costs of producing an item. But there is a logical limit on how far efficiency can be improved with current technology, and productivity could also be about to hit the ceiling.

It is the combination of underlying factors that has persuaded many UK fund managers to stay clear of the US market. Garmore, Fidelity and Save & Prosper are all low on US investments.

"We are underweight in US stocks, and we share that position with the majority of UK investment houses," said Michael Ashbridge of Save & Prosper. "Valuation in the US market is very stretched. We are particularly worried about the huge investment in US mutual funds. This money is very liquid, and in the worst scenario it could all be withdrawn quickly."

Fund managers admit that their underweight position in US stocks has meant a loss in profits as Wall Street has proved as miraculously immune to its detractors as Bill Clinton's Presidency. Some analysts are less pessimistic

about American prospects. A report this week by the irrepressibly bullish Abby Cohen of Goldman Sachs claims that US economic conditions are highly favourable.

It forecasts that equity prices could even rise a further 25 per cent if the possible reduction in capital gains tax takes place, and long-term investors can look forward to a surge in entitlements spending when the baby-boom generation begins to retire. But Goldman Sachs concedes that future returns are likely to be considerably lower than over the past six years. In its opinion, American stocks are at "fair" value.

Warren Buffett, head of Berkshire Hathaway and known to his followers as the "sage of Omaha," also gave warning this week that returns on equities in the next ten years will be significantly lower than during the past decade.

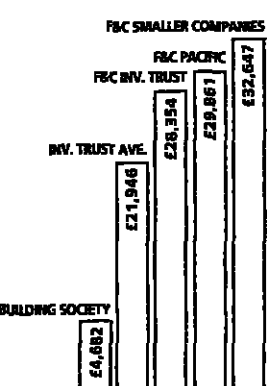
It could be time to seek better value in European or Asian markets. Then again, some analysts have been saying this since 1995, and investors who followed their advice have lost out to a spectacular degree.

If you decide that the US boom still has some years to run, analysts' collective fund tips include Credit Suisse Transatlantic, Garmore American Emerging Markets, Perpetual American Growth, US Smaller Companies Investment Trust, Schroder US Smaller Companies and Perpetual American Smaller Companies.

Investment.

As broad as it's been long.

GROWTH OF £1,000 OVER 20 YEARS



With change in the air, many investors feel indecisive. Of course, spreading investments internationally always makes sense, especially in times of uncertainty. At Foreign & Colonial, your choice is broad and our experience long. We offer a wide range of risk-rated investment trusts specialising in different countries, regions and sectors.

You can access our specialist expertise through our Private Investor Plan. We charge just 5p* to invest the minimum monthly contribution of £25. Why not request our brochure for more information?

Phone 01734 828 802 or Fax 01734 344 622 any time quoting the coupon code, or return the coupon.

Foreign & Colonial

To: Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd, PO Box 2, Twyford, Berkshire RG10 9NW.

Name
Address
Town County
Postcode Code P10597T

* Plus statutory 0.5% Govt. Stamp Duty on purchase. The value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is no guide to the future. All figures sourced Mifcapal: 3.1.77-1.1.97. Investment trust figures basic mid-market prices, net income reinvested, incl. historical 3.5% notional expenses. (Actual Plan charges: 0.2% commission and 0.5% Govt. Stamp Duty). Building Society figure basic highest net rate available (UK Savings £25,000+ Account) total return, net income reinvested. Foreign & Colonial Management Limited (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) or its subsidiaries are the Managers of the investment trusts.

Bold moves spur stocks and bonds

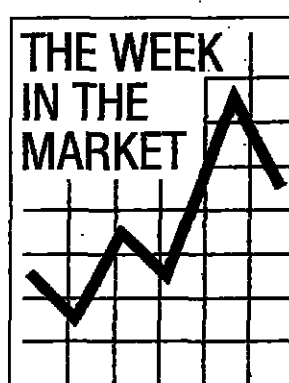
The Labour Government's first week has been characterised by bold political decisions, unprecedented stock market highs, and bullish bond markets in marked contrast to the uncertainty and volatility of the past two months.

The FT-SE 100 index hit record highs throughout the week, driven by Chancellor Gordon Brown's decision to hand over monetary policy to the Bank of England after his first and last base rate increase of 0.25 per cent.

Although the rate rise was expected, the Bank decision was not. Financial shares powered the stock market surge on the surprise news, with the FT-SE 100 index ending the week 175.3 points up at 4,630.9, despite continued volatility on Wall Street.

The market was cheered by the Government's clear intention to keep a tight rein on inflation. The news was especially welcomed by the bond markets, as this column predicted it would be several weeks ago — with benchmark ten-year gilts rising more than two points to 101.188, while yields fell from 7.37 per cent to 7.09 per cent. The friendly signals towards Europe from Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, are also music to the bond markets' ears.

Bob Semple, market strategist at NatWest Securities, the stockbroker, said: "New Labour is proving to be just that. We have seen them embracing



the market economy and proving true to their word. They are even showing themselves, in the case of the Bank of England decision, to be bolder than the Conservatives. Now we wait to see what they do in the Budget."

Banks continued to thrive all week. Notably, HSBC, which owns Midland Bank and James Capel, the broker, leapt 57p to £17.25 1/2 on Thursday on the back of a positive turnaround in the Hong Kong market on Wednesday. There is renewed optimism that China will adopt a laissez-faire attitude towards the colony's free market after next month's handover.

Abbey National, NatWest, Lloyds TSB and Barclays all performed strongly, as did newcomer Alliance & Leicester. And with the Halifax Building Society's £10 billion flotation just three weeks

away, banks are likely to remain in the spotlight.

But John Aiken, banking analyst at UBS, the broker, said: "Irrespective of the Bank of England decision, there is the general shortage of bank sector stock which is driving prices up. The building society flotations are making institutions realise that they have to increase weightings in what is the biggest stock market sector, so there is competition for the stock and not enough to go round."

The theory is that with the Bank of England in control, long-term interest rates should come down once inflation is well and truly pegged. Low interest rates are generally good for equities.

Wednesday's news that BSkysB was forming an alliance with BT, Midland Bank and Matsushita, to develop an interactive digital television network helped to push its share price up 5p to 60p. And the news that ICI is buying Unilever's speciality chemicals business for £5 billion helped to push the stock up 43p to 757 1/2 p on Wednesday after a prolonged period of underperformance.

But sterling's strength, now underpinned by this week's base rate rise, will continue to cause difficulties for companies such as BTR, the diversified industrial. Its shares fell 14 per cent after a second profit warning within a year. Elsewhere, retail sales figures from the CBI this week

showed a positive balance of 42 per cent of retailers reporting annual growth compared with 32 per cent a year ago. Furniture and carpet retailers, DIY stores and clothing shops all reported 'improved' sales,

indicating that the consumer-led economic recovery, dominated so far by the services sector, is filtering through at last to the retail sector.

MATTHEW WALL

Simply Postal

Postal 30 Shares	GROSS*	NET
£40,000 up to £200,000	6.50%	5.20%
£20,000 to under £40,000	6.40%	5.12%
£5,000 to under £20,000	6.10%	4.88%
£2,500 to under £5,000	5.60%	4.48%

- All transactions are dealt with by post.
- Minimum investment and balance to be maintained £2,500.
- Interest paid annually.
- Withdrawals at 30 days' notice; during this period the interest rate on the amount to be withdrawn will be half the usual rate.
- Rates subject to variation throughout period of investment.
- Interest will be payable net of tax at 20% or, subject to the required certification, gross.

FREEPHONE 0800 32 66 32
THE BY POST ONLY DIVISION OF
LAMBETH BUILDING SOCIETY

LAMBETH SIMPLY POSTAL, FREEPOST, SE1 2BR
Address
Postcode

Enjoy a regular income and an annual bonus.

For more information visit your local branch or call

0800 132 304

QUOTING REF HIB0597

Britannia
The Sharing Society

HIGH INCOME BOND

UP TO

7.50%
GROSS

- A fixed interest rate provides regular income for 5 years.
- Choose to have interest paid monthly or annually.
- Invest as little as £2,000*.
- Receive an annual bonus with our Members' Loyalty Bonus Scheme.

*7.50% gross annual interest for investments of £20,000+ (7.25% gross annual interest for minimum £2,000 - £19,999) without UK income tax deducted. Maximum investment £500,000. No withdrawals are permitted during the five year term. Interest is payable on the anniversary of the account opening. Interest will be payable net of the applicable rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or gross subject to the required registration. Britannia Building Society, Britannia House, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 5BG.

Sara McConnell on the problem of maximising retirement income



Potatoes ma'am or potatoes? Choosing between a pension, a Pep or a Tessa can prove just as difficult

When the time comes to choose

Should you put all your retirement savings into a pension? Or would you do just as well putting the contributions into a personal equity plan or other savings scheme?

One thing is certain. Doing nothing to save towards your retirement will no longer be an option unless you are prepared to live from hand to mouth. Politicians from all sides of the spectrum made it clear during the election campaign that people will be expected to supplement the basic state pension with their own contributions.

The unspoken assumption is that this will be through top-up contributions to personal pensions into which a compulsory slice of salary has already been paid to provide basic provision.

But recent letters to the Pensions Postbag column reveal some public disillusionment with personal pensions. High charges, poor performance and inflexible rules when peoples' circumstances change have all led readers to question whether it is worth pouring hard-earned money into schemes which appear to represent such poor value for money.

Could a Pep or Tessa give them a better deal for their retirement, many readers ask. Here are extracts from just two of the letters.

"I pay £101.33 per month into a pension plan which I took out in February 1994 and which may provide a yearly pension of £970 before tax when I retire in 2000. The question in my mind is whether I would be better off putting the monthly contribution into a Tessa or a Pep, or even just spending it."

"I have accumulated only a very small pension fund from past periods of employment. Since 1992, my husband, who is already receiving his pension, has paid voluntary National Insurance contributions of £309 a year to help me to boost my state pension. I am wondering whether it would be better to use this money towards some form of Pep to produce an income for me when I reach pensionable age. I have fought shy of this until now because I believed that management charges would eliminate much of the contributions which can only be in the region of £25 a month."

advantage that you will not lose capital nor face high initial or continuing charges, but the value of your investment could erode if inflation rises. Even if it does not, returns on deposit accounts have historically been lower than on equity-based investments such as pensions or Peps. ■ Personal equity plans (Peps) are equity based. There is a risk of losing capital if stock markets fall, but retirement provision should be long term. Like pensions, your investment will roll up tax-free. Unlike pensions you will also receive the final fund tax-free. Peps have two main advantages over pensions for

continuing charges, depending on the type of underlying investment and there are new start-up charges every year because you have to start a new plan.

But according to Mr Bolland, Peps often work out cheaper than pensions, partly because salesmen's commissions are lower on Peps. The key cost is the annual management charge, which can be as much as 1.5 per cent on some unit-trust Peps. You will probably also face an initial charge of 5 or 6 per cent including salesmen's commission. Over time, annual management charges in particular will erode small sums. Many companies will not accept contributions as low as £25 a month.

■ Pensions can carry big initial charges which may in some cases erode the whole of your investment in the early years of your savings. If you subsequently stop contributing, you will not be able to cash in your investment but will have to leave it or transfer it to another pension plan. Funds left in a plan will continue to attract charges.

The main attraction of pensions, particularly for higher-rate taxpayers, is that contributions currently attract tax relief at the highest rate. This, coupled with the tax-free growth of the investment, is meant to justify rules that compel people to spend roughly three quarters of their fund buying an annuity to give them a guaranteed income. An annuity is a gamble. If you buy when rates are poor you are stuck with a low income for life. If you die the year after you buy it, your pension fund dies with you.

Annuities take a knock, page 39



Weekend Money replies: Unfortunately there is no right or wrong answer to how you should save for retirement. Much depends on your tax position, your other assets and your approach to investment risk.

But there are some basic ground rules, according to Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial adviser.

■ Tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) allow investments of up to £9,000 over five years with interest rolling up tax free if you do not touch the investment. But they are deposit accounts. They have the

those who value flexibility. First, you can take the fund before retirement if you need to. Secondly, you do not have to use the majority of your fund to buy an annuity as you do with a pension. You could blow it all on the day you retire or reinvest it for income where you please.

Each individual can put up to £9,000 a year into a Pep. Unlike pensions, the level of your contributions is not dictated by your salary and you do not have to be earning to make contributions, although taxpayers will be the ones to benefit from the relief.

Peps carry initial and con-

GROWTH PEP

THESE NUMBERS ARE UNBEATABLE

INITIAL PEP CHARGE

0%

PLUS

TEN YEAR GROWTH

266%

SO RING THIS ONE. 0800 829 100.

There are other PEPs with no entry or exit charges. But not one of them beats our ten year performance of 266%.

That's an average of 13.3% a year. Free of tax.

And all you pay on the way in is 0.5% Government stamp duty. In fact, our Growth Fund is in the top 10% of all unit trusts over three, five and ten years.

For a brochure, call us between 8am and 9pm, seven days a week.

SAVE & PROSPER

DON'T JUST SAVE. SAVE AND PROSPER.

<http://www.prosper.co.uk>

All figures are based on buying to selling price with gross income invested to 1.97. Five year performance to 1.97 is 188%. (Source: Moneys). The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested. Exchange rates may also affect performance. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. On 24.5.96 the investment objective of the fund (formerly known as Scotbids) was broadened from investment in financial services to investment in any economic sector. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Save & Prosper Group is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMFO. We only advise on products and services offered by the Flannings and Save & Prosper Marketing Group. 1848/002

Your Life Assurance can be cheaper

Policy Choice Direct

the financial people who let you choose

Our Unique Service is FREE

- ◆ Our FREE GUIDE gives you the facts
- ◆ You compare the rates of the top companies
- ◆ We arrange your policy
- ◆ We refund your first two months premium

0500 813913

Not all insurance policies and attachments are suitable for everyone so if you have any doubts about suitability seek expert advice. We do not give financial advice. Policy Choice Direct PLC is an appointed representative of The Financial Advice Group, regulated by the Financial Investment Authority for investment business.

FOR FULL DETAILS OF FINANCIAL ADVERTISING IN THE

MONEY SECTION

PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171 782 7185

OR

0171 782 7718

WITH BENEFIT FOR ANnuITY

ANNUITY WITH BENEFIT

Policy Plus can quote up to 10% more than the surrender value of your old endowment. In just 48 hours, guaranteed for longer than any other company, and no fees.

Get on the pink. If you're over 50, you're over 70, you're over 80, you're over 90, you're over 100, you're over 110, you're over 120, you're over 130, you're over 140, you're over 150, you're over 160, you're over 170, you're over 180, you're over 190, you're over 200, you're over 210, you're over 220, you're over 230, you're over 240, you're over 250, you're over 260, you're over 270, you're over 280, you're over 290, you're over 300, you're over 310, you're over 320, you're over 330, you're over 340, you're over 350, you're over 360, you're over 370, you're over 380, you're over 390, you're over 400, you're over 410, you're over 420, you're over 430, you're over 440, you're over 450, you're over 460, you're over 470, you're over 480, you're over 490, you're over 500, you're over 510, you're over 520, you're over 530, you're over 540, you're over 550, you're over 560, you're over 570, you're over 580, you're over 590, you're over 600, you're over 610, you're over 620, you're over 630, you're over 640, you're over 650, you're over 660, you're over 670, you're over 680, you're over 690, you're over 700, you're over 710, you're over 720, you're over 730, you're over 740, you're over 750, you're over 760, you're over 770, you're over 780, you're over 790, you're over 800, you're over 810, you're over 820, you're over 830, you're over 840, you're over 850, you're over 860, you're over 870, you're over 880, you're over 890, you're over 900, you're over 910, you're over 920, you're over 930, you're over 940, you're over 950, you're over 960, you're over 970, you're over 980, you're over 990, you're over 1000, you're over 1010, you're over 1020, you're over 1030, you're over 1040, you're over 1050, you're over 1060, you're over 1070, you're over 1080, you're over 1090, you're over 1100, you're over 1110, you're over 1120, you're over 1130, you're over 1140, you're over 1150, you're over 1160, you're over 1170, you're over 1180, you're over 1190, you're over 1200, you're over 1210, you're over 1220, you're over 1230, you're over 1240, you're over 1250, you're over 1260, you're over 1270, you're over 1280, you're over 1290, you're over 1300, you're over 1310, you're over 1320, you're over 1330, you're over 1340, you're over 1350, you're over 1360, you're over 1370, you're over 1380, you're over 1390, you're over 1400, you're over 1410, you're over 1420, you're over 1430, you're over 1440, you're over 1450, you're over 1460, you're over 1470, you're over 1480, you're over 1490, you're over 1500, you're over 1510, you're over 1520, you're over 1530, you're over 1540, you're over 1550, you're over 1560, you're over 1570, you're over 1580, you're over 1590, you're over 1600, you're over 1610, you're over 1620, you're over 1630, you're over 1640, you're over 1650, you're over 1660, you're over 1670, you're over 1680, you're over 1690, you're over 1700, you're over 1710, you're over 1720, you're over 1730, you're over 1740, you're over 1750, you're over 1760, you're over 1770, you're over 1780, you're over 1790, you're over 1800, you're over 1810, you're over 1820, you're over 1830, you're over 1840, you're over 1850, you're over 1860, you're over 1870, you're over 1880, you're over 1890, you're over 1900, you're over 1910, you're over 1920, you're over 1930, you're over 1940, you're over 1950, you're over 1960, you're over 1970, you're over 1980, you're over 1990, you're over 2000, you're over 2010, you're over 2020, you're over 2030, you're over 2040, you're over 2050, you're over 2060, you're over 2070, you're over 2080, you're over 2090, you're over 2100, you're over 2110, you're over 2120, you're over 2130, you're over 2140, you're over 2150, you're over 2160, you're over 2170, you're over 2180, you're over 2190, you're over 2200, you're over 2210, you're over 2220, you're over 2230, you're over 2240, you're over 2250, you're over 2260, you're over 2270, you're over 2280, you're over 2290, you're over 2300, you're over 2310, you're over 2320, you're over 2330, you're over 2340, you're over 2350, you're over 2360, you're over 2370, you're over 2380, you're over 2390, you're over 2400, you're over 2410, you're over 2420, you're over 2430, you're over 2440, you're over 2450, you're over 2460, you're over 2470, you're over 2480, you're over 2490, you're over 2500, you're over 2510, you're over 2520, you're over 2530, you're over 2540, you're over 2550, you're over 2560, you're over 2570, you're over 2580, you're over 2590, you're over 2600, you're over 2610, you're over 2620, you're over 2630, you're over 2640, you're over 2650, you're over 2660, you're over 2670, you're over 2680, you're over 2690, you're over 2700, you're over 2710, you're over 2720, you're over 2730, you're over 2740, you're over 2750, you're over 2760, you're over 2770, you're over 2780, you're over 2790, you're over 2800, you're over 2810, you're over 2820, you're over 2830, you're over 2840, you're over 2850, you're over 2860, you're over 2870, you're over 2880, you're over 2890, you're over 2900, you're over 2910, you're over 2920, you're over 2930, you're over 2940, you're over 2950, you're over 2960, you're over 2970, you're over 2980, you're over 2990, you're over 3000, you're over 3010, you're over 3020, you're over 3030, you're over 3040, you're over 3050, you're over 3060, you're over 3070, you're over 3080, you're over 3090, you're over 3100, you're over 3110, you're over 3120, you're over 3130, you're over 3140, you're over 3150, you're over 3160, you're over 3170, you're over 3180, you're over 3190, you're over 3200, you're over 3210, you're over 3220, you're over 3230, you're over 3240, you're over 3250, you're over 3260, you're over 3270, you're over 3280, you're over 3290, you're over 3300, you're over 3310, you're over 3320, you're over 3330, you're over 3340, you're over 3350, you're over 3360, you're over 3370, you're over 3380, you're over 3390, you're over 3400, you're over 3410, you're over 3420, you're over 3430, you're over 3440, you're over 3450, you're over 3460, you're over 3470, you're over 3480, you're over 3490, you're over 3500, you're over 3510, you're over 3520, you're over 3530, you're over 3540, you're over 3550, you're over 3560, you're over 3570, you're over 3580, you're over 3590, you're over 3600, you're over 3610, you're over 3620, you're over 3630, you're over 3640, you're over 3650, you're over 3660, you're over 3670, you're over 3680, you're over 3690, you're over 3700, you're over 3710, you're over 3720, you're over 3730, you're over 3740, you're over 3750, you're over 3760, you're over 3770, you're over 3780, you're over 3790, you're over 3800, you're over 3810, you're over 3820, you're over 3830, you're over 3840, you're over 3850, you're over 3860, you're over 3870, you're over 3880, you're over 3890, you're over 3900, you're over 3910, you're over 3920, you're over 3930, you're over 3940, you're over 3950, you're over 3960, you're over 3970, you're over 3980, you're over 3990, you're over 4000, you're over 4010, you're over 4020, you're over 4030, you're over 4040, you're over 4050, you're over 4060, you're over 4070, you're over 4080, you're over 4090, you're over 4100, you're over 4110, you're over 4120, you're over 4130, you're over 4140, you're over 4150, you're over 4160, you're over 4170, you're over 4180, you're over 4190, you're over 4200, you're over 4210, you're over 4220, you're over 4230, you're over 4240, you're over 4250, you're over 4260, you're over 4270, you're over 4280, you're over 4290, you're over 4300, you're over 4310, you're over 4320, you're over 4330, you're over 4340, you're over 4350, you're over 4360, you're over 4370, you're over 4380, you're over 4390, you're over 4400, you're over 4410, you're over 4420, you're over 4430, you're over 4440, you're over 4450, you're over 4460, you're over 4470, you're over 4480, you're over 4490, you're over 4500, you're over 4510, you're over 4520, you're over 4530, you're over 4540, you're over 4550, you're over 4560, you're over 4570, you're over 4580, you're over 4590, you're over 4600, you're over 4610, you're over 4620, you're over 4630, you're over 4640, you're over 4650, you're over 4660, you're over 4670, you're over 4680, you're over 4690, you're over 4700, you're over 4710, you're over 4720, you're over 4730, you're over 4740, you're over 4750, you're over 4760, you're over 4770, you're over 4780, you're over 4790, you're over 4800, you're over 4810, you're over 4820, you're over 4830, you're over 4840, you're over 4850, you're over 4860, you're over 4870, you're over 4880, you're over 4890, you're over 4900, you're over 4910, you're over 4920, you're over 4930, you're over 4940, you're over 4950, you're over 4960, you're over 4970, you're over 4980, you're over 4990, you're over 5000, you're over 5010, you're over 5020, you're over 5030, you're over 5040, you're over 5050, you're over 5060, you're over 5070, you're over 5080, you're over 5090, you're over 5100, you're over 5110, you're over 5120, you're over 5130, you're over 5140, you're over 5150, you're over 5160, you're over 5170, you're over 5180, you're over 5190, you're over 5200, you're over 5210, you're over 5220, you're over 5230, you're over 5240, you're over 5250, you're over 5260, you're over 5270, you're over 5280, you're over 5290, you're over 5300, you're over 5310, you're over 5320, you're over 5330, you're over 5340, you're over 5350, you're over 5360, you're over 5370, you're over 5380, you're over 5390, you're over 5400, you're over 5410, you're over 5420, you're over 5430, you're over 5440, you're over 5450, you're over 5460, you're over 5470, you're over 5480, you're over 5490, you're over 5500, you're over 5510, you're over 5520, you're over 5530, you're over 5540, you're over 5550, you're over 5560, you're over 5570, you're over 5580, you're over 5590, you're over 5600, you're over 5610, you're over 5620, you're over 5630, you're over 5640, you're over 5650, you're over 5660, you're over 5670, you're over 5680, you're over 5690, you're over 5700, you're over 5710, you're over 5720, you're over 5730, you're over 5740, you're over 5750, you're over 5760, you're over 5770, you're over 5780, you're over 5790, you're over 5800, you're over 5810, you're over 5820, you're over 5830, you're over 5840, you're over 5850, you're over 5860, you're over 5870, you're over 5880, you're over 5890, you're over 5900, you're over 5910, you're over 5920, you're over 5930, you're over 5940, you're over 5950, you're over 5960, you're over 5970, you're over 5980, you're over 5990, you're over 6000, you're over 6010, you're over 6020, you're over 6030, you're over 6040, you're over 6050, you're over 6060, you're over 6070, you're over 6080, you're over 6090, you're over 6100, you're over 6110, you're over 6120, you're over 6130, you're over 6140, you're over 6150, you're over 6160, you're over 6170, you're over 6180, you're over 6190, you're over 6200, you're over 6210, you're over 6220, you're over 6230, you're over 6240, you're over 6250, you're over 6260, you're over 6270, you're over 6280, you're over 6290, you're over 6300, you're over 6310, you're over 6320, you're over 6330, you're over 6340, you're over 6350, you're over 6360, you're over 6370, you're over 6380, you're over 6390, you're over 6400, you're over 6410, you're over 6420, you're over 6430, you're over 6440, you're over 6450, you're over 6460, you're over 6470, you're over 6480, you're over 6490, you're over 6500, you're over 6510, you're over 6520, you're over 6530, you're over 6540, you're over 6550, you're over 6560, you're over 6570, you're over 6580, you're over 6590, you're over 6600, you're over 6610, you're over 6620, you're over 6630, you're over 6640, you're over 6650, you're over 6660, you're over 6670, you're over 6680, you're over 6690, you're over 6700, you're over 6710, you're over 6720, you're over 6730, you're over 6740, you're over 6750, you're over 6760, you're over 6770, you're over 6780, you're over 6790, you're over 6800, you're over 6810, you're over 6820, you're over 6830, you're over 6840, you're over 6850, you're over 6860, you're over 6870, you're over 6880, you're over 6890, you're over 6900, you're over 6910, you're over 6920, you're over 6930, you're over 6940, you're over 6950, you're over 6960, you're over 6970, you're over 6980, you're over 6990, you're over 7000, you're over 7010, you're over 7020, you're over 7030, you're over 7040, you're over 7050, you're over 7060, you're over 7070, you're over 7080, you're over 7090, you're over 7100, you're over 7110, you're over 7120, you're over 7130, you're over 7140, you're over 7150, you're over 7160, you're over 7170, you're over 7180, you're over 7190, you're over 7200, you're over 7210, you're over 7220, you're over 7230, you're over 7240, you're over 7250, you're over 7260, you're over 7270, you're over 7280, you're over 7290, you're over 7300, you're over 7310, you're over 7320, you're over 7330, you're over 7340, you're over 7350, you're over 7360, you're over 7370, you're over 7380, you're over 7390, you're over 7400, you're over 7410, you're over 7420, you're over 7430, you're over 7440, you're over 7450, you're over 7460, you're over 7470, you're over 7480, you're over 7490, you're over 7500, you're over 7510, you're over 7520, you're over 7530, you're over 7540, you're over 7550, you're over 7560, you're over 7570, you're over 7580, you're over 7590, you're over 7600, you're over 7610, you're over 7620, you're over 7630, you're over 7640, you're over 7650, you're over 7660, you're over 7670, you're over 7680, you're over 7690, you're over 7700, you're over 7710, you're over 7720, you're over 7730, you're over 7740, you're over 7750, you're over 7760, you're over 7770, you're over 7780, you're over 7790, you're over 7800, you're over 7810, you're over 7820, you're over 7830, you're over 7840, you're over 7850, you're over 7860, you're over 7870, you're over 7880, you're over 7890, you're over 7900, you're over 7910, you're over 7920, you're over 7930, you're over 7940, you're over 7950, you're over 7960, you're over 7970, you're over 7980, you're over 7990, you're over 8000, you're over 8010, you're over 8020, you're over 8030, you're over 8040, you're over 8050, you're over 8060, you're over 8070, you're over 8080, you're over 8090, you're over 8100, you're over 8110, you're over 8120, you're over 8130, you're over 8140, you're over 8150, you're over 8160, you're over 8170, you're over 8180, you're over 8190, you're over 8200, you're over 8210, you're over 8220, you're over 8230, you're over 8240, you're over 8250, you're over 8260, you're over 8270, you're over 8280, you're over 8290, you're over 8300, you're over 8310, you're over 8320, you're over 8330, you're over 8340, you're over 8350, you're over 8360, you're over 8370, you're over 8380, you're over 8390, you're over 8400, you're over 8410, you're over 8420, you're over 8430, you're over 8440, you're over 8450, you're over 8460, you're over 8470, you're over 8480, you're over 8490, you're over 8500, you're over 8510, you're over 8520, you're over 8530, you're over 8540, you're over 8550, you're over 8560, you're over 8570, you're over 8580, you're over 8590, you're over 8600, you're over 8610, you're over 8620, you're over 8630, you're over 8640, you're over 8650, you're over 8660, you're over 8670, you're over 8680, you're over 8690, you're over 8700, you're over 8710, you're over 8720, you're over 8730, you're over 8740, you're over 8750, you're over 8760, you're over 8770, you're over 8780, you're over 8790, you're over 8800, you're over 8810, you're over 8820, you're over 8830, you're over 8840, you're over 8850, you're over 8860, you're over 8870, you're over 8880, you're over 8890, you're over 8900, you're over 8910, you're over 8920, you're over 8930, you're over 8940, you're over 8950, you're over 8960, you're over 8970, you're over 8980, you're over 8990, you're over 9000, you're over 9010, you're over 9020, you're over 9030, you're over 9040, you're over 9050, you're over 9060, you're over 9070, you're over 9080, you're over 9090, you're over 9100, you're over 9110, you're over 9120, you're over 9130, you're over 9140, you're over 9150, you're over 9160, you're over 9170, you're over 9180, you're over 9190, you're over 9200, you're over 9210, you're over 9220, you're over 9230, you're over 9240, you're over 9250, you're over 9260, you're over 9270, you're over 9280, you're over 9290, you're over 9300, you're over 9310, you're over 9320, you're over 9330, you're over 9340, you're over 9350, you're over 9360, you're over 9370, you're over 9380, you're over 9390, you're over 9400, you're over 9410, you're over 9420, you're over 9430, you're over 9440, you're over 9450, you're over 9460, you're over 9470, you're over 9480, you're over 9490, you're over 9500, you're over 9510, you're over 9520, you're over 9530, you're over 9540, you're over 9550, you're over 9560, you're over 9570, you're over 9580, you're over 9590, you're over 9600, you're over 9610, you're over 9620, you're over 9630

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

INSTANT ACCESS WITH 5.25% GROSS PA.



- Instant access with a cheque book
- A competitive rate of interest of 5.25%*
- Minimum balance of £5000
- No minimum cheque withdrawal or deposit
- A first class postal banking service

For more information on the HICA 5000, call our 24-hour answerphone on 0171-626-0879 or call one of our Account Managers on 0171-203-1550, between 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday, quoting reference HICA 5000. *Interest rates may vary.

Alternatively complete the coupon and FREEPOST it to us.

INVESTEC
INVESTEC BANK (UK) LIMITED

The new name for Allied Trust Bank

To: Investec Bank (UK) Limited, FREEPOST, London EC4B 4RN
Please send me details of the Premier High Interest Cheque Account (HICA 5000).

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

Investec Bank (UK) Limited, Cannon Bridge, 25 Dwyer Hill, London EC4R 2AT. **TIM 10/5**

A bouquet — and a brickbat for National Savings

From Mrs J. Edwards
Sir, I most heartily endorse Mr R. J. Hobdell's praise (Weekend Money Letters, April 19) of the National Savings staff at Durham. For more than 20 years, the staff there have dealt with many applications to reinvest, purchase or partly repay our savings certificates with great efficiency and a kindly, caring attitude to sorting out all queries promptly, either by telephoning or by writing to us.

Our monthly budgeting would be impossible without a regular income from the part-repayment of one or other of the certificates and I am infinitely grateful to the staff for their excellent service.

Yours faithfully,
JANET EDWARDS,
18 Onslow Court,
Drayton Gardens, SW10.

From Mr C. S. Corcoran
Sir, In her article (Step by step saving, April 19) Karen Zagor says National Savings dropped the yearly bond scheme because there was not enough demand.

This was a scheme in which savers put aside between £20 and £400 a month on terms where for a plan taken out in November 1992, for example, the tax-free rate of return over 5 years equaled 6.75 per cent compounded; for the two following years it was 5.75 per cent and 5.85 per cent respectively — returns which bear favourable comparison with other National Savings schemes.

My understanding is that the Treasury considered the rates of interest too generous and stopped any further contributions; despite government expressions of intent that people should be encouraged to save for the future.

Yours faithfully,
C. S. CORCORAN,
25 Hyethorpe Road, SW12.

Shabby treatment of service widows

From Mrs J. Green
Sir, Jenny Grove's excellent article (Service pension rules add to widow's distress, April 26) highlighted the problems faced by war and service widows. Our particular concern is that the occupational Armed Forces Family Pension should be for life, regardless of whether a widow remarries. Tom King as Defence Minister stated quite categorically that this was a contributory pension.

Recently one young service widow was initially refused a mortgage on the grounds that her pension (income) was not guaranteed. They said it was dependent on her remaining without a partner and she could not give that guarantee. It is quite wrong that those who lose a spouse while serving in the Forces should be denied the right to keep their occupational pension while rebuilding stable family units. Surely it is time to correct this anomaly?

Yours faithfully,
JENNY GREEN,
President,
RAF Widows' Association,
c/o 67 Portland Place, W1.



Still proud: war and service widows at their annual ceremony at the Cenotaph

From Mrs L. Long
Sir, Your correspondent Mrs E. Marshall and Capt M. Dunlop are very lucky compared with me. I have been widowed 26 years and my husband's naval pension (after a lifetime of service in the Royal Navy) was cut off the day he died after an accident. His lifetime of service at sea did not count for anything. The date of our marriage was the controlling rule. I am over 80 now and have given up hope of anything.

Yours faithfully,
L. LONG,
Shobdon, Leominster,
Herefordshire.

From Mrs I. Bloor
Sir, The War Widows' Association of Great Britain with the support of others in the ex-service community has been successful over the years in campaigning for improved pensions and conditions for pre-1973 war widows. The association is still campaigning for a pension for life for the young widows, who would lose their pension

if they remarried or cohabited. These ladies get a much smaller DSS pension, as their husbands paid into an occupational pension scheme. It seems very unfair that this occupational pension should stop for any reason. After all if their husband had worked for another employer they would in all probability have kept the pension for life. In this respect, we are treating our war widows less favourably than ordinary widows and that cannot be right. We are always delighted to welcome new members.

Yours faithfully,
IRENE BLOOR,
Public Relations Officer,
War Widows Association of Great Britain,
1 Coach Lane,
Stanton in Peak,
Matlock, Derbyshire.

From Sqn Ldr A. Garrett
Sir, May I add another facet to the debate on Armed

Forces pensions. In 1941, aged 19, I volunteered for the RAF. I reported for duty that September and ten months later qualified as a Sgt Pilot. I was a Warrant Officer when the war ended, commissioned in 1946, and retired as a Squadron Leader in 1971.

My last full tour of duty was with a Nato unit and my main contacts were two officers of equal rank: one Dutch, one Belgian. Both were a little older than I and had therefore served for about a year more than I had. Both of their Services had higher rates of pay than the RAF. We all expected to retire at about the same time.

The Dutchman expected to retire with a pension equal to about 80 per cent of his final salary. His widow could expect to receive 50 per cent.

In calculating the pension for the Belgian officer (who had served in the RAF during the war) his wartime service

was trebled and overseas service in trouble spots, such as the Congo, was doubled. Because of this he was looking forward to a pension in excess of 90 per cent of his final salary. His widow would receive 50 per cent.

When calculating my pension my length of service was reduced. Only service after the age of 21 being included in the calculations. As a result, my pension was about one third of my final salary. I calculated that the Belgian officer's widow's pension would be higher than my total pension. And, of course, my widow will receive only one third of that.

I was proud to serve my country for nearly 30 years. What a pity that my country has no pride in the way it treats those who served it.

Yours faithfully,
A. GARRETT,
3 Hilly Fields,
Woodbridge, Suffolk.

M&G defends its investment criteria

From Mr M. McIntock
Sir, I refer to your editorial (Performance left wanting at M&G, April 26). It poses serious questions which demand a response. You refer to M&G's "misguided attachment to an investment strategy". M&G is, and will remain, well known as a value investor — meaning, in essence, a strategy of buying unfashionable and intrinsically cheap shares with good prospects that have been overlooked by the market. This strategy remains as valid today as it ever has and has been consistently proven to deliver above-average long-term returns.

We are a new management team — I only took over as group managing director in February this year — and it is

our job to make such changes to the business as we think are in our investors' interests. We are not in any way embarrassed to have plans to improve our day-to-day investment process and to clarify our funds' identities and objectives — no organisation is perfect, and we believe we can make a number of significant improvements to the way in which M&G conducts its business.

I profoundly disagree with your contention that M&G has been at fault in pursuing a value strategy "when this was clearly not in the interests of customers". You seem to suggest that fund managers should run around changing their investment strategy whenever they hit difficult short-term circumstances and, by impli-

cation, that they should not promote products unless their recent record is good. Do you really believe this can be in the public's interest? Today's fashion is tomorrow's discard. I would have thought you would be pleased that there are fund managers around who have the courage to market what they believe in, even if it is unfashionable, rather than pandering to every short-term whim. The time to be investing is at the bottom of a cycle, such as that currently affecting the value style.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MCINTOCK,
Group Managing Director,
M&G Group Plc,
3 Minster Court,
Great Tower Street, EC3.

CASHING IN YOUR ENDOWMENT?
IT'S EASY TO GET MORE
We regularly pay up to 30% MORE* than the surrender value for with profits endowment and whole life policies.

Life Company Offered £16,311
Policy Portfolio Price £21,100

Don't lose out - contact Policy Portfolio Plc today.
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

POLICY PORTFOLIO

TEL: 0181 343 4567 Lines Open 24 Hours - 7 Days a week
Gadd House, Arcadia Avenue, London N3 2JU

Selling your Endowment?
Want more money and the best service?
Phone Neville James

- Prompt valuations, firm offers
- Top prices for suitable policies
- Professional, specialist staff, 7 days a week

— PLEASE CALL NOW —
01243 52 00 00
EVERY DAY 8 AM - 8 PM

Neville JAMES

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Member of The Association of Policy Makers-Midland

UP TO 148% GROSS RETURNED OVER THREE YEARS.

OFFER CLOSES 31 JULY 1997

The low interest rates of the past few years haven't been great news for savers. This is a savings product with the amount of interest you earn linked to the growth in the equity market. It's a strictly limited offer. So if you have a minimum of £5,000 to deposit, act now.

- 116% MINIMUM RETURN GUARANTEED (including original amount invested).
- CAPITAL SUM GUARANTEED AT MATURITY.
- INTEREST PAID GROSS OF TAX.
- GROWTH LINKED TO FTSE 100 AND THE NIKKEI 225 STOCK MARKET INDICES.
- NO FEES.

For The Royal Bank of Scotland International, Offshore Banking Centre, P.O. Box 678, 50-63 Bath Street, St. Helier, Jersey JE4 8YN.
Fax No: 01334 285588. Please send me further information on The Guaranteed Equity Account and an application form.

Name: _____ Address: _____
Country: _____

The Times 10/5/97

CALL 01534 285 741 NOW

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL

THE GUARANTEED MINIMUM RETURN OF 116% AND THE MAXIMUM OF 148% INCLUDE THE RETURN OF THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT INVESTED. THE TERM OF THE ACCOUNT IS 3 YEARS UNLESS INSTRUCTED BY 31 JULY 2000 AND WITHDRAWALS MAY BE MADE. THE ACCOUNT MAY BE CLOSED PRIOR TO THE Maturity DATE. THE RETURN OF CAPITAL AND INTEREST IS GUARANTEED ONLY AT MATURITY. INTEREST IS PAID GROSS OF TAX. BEFORE THE DEDUCTION OF INCOME TAX. A GUARANTEED EQUITY ACCOUNT IS A FORM OF DEPOSIT WITH THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL LIMITED (THE "BANK") WHICH IS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP. THE BANK IS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN DEPOSIT INSURANCE SCHEME. THE GUARANTEED EQUITY ACCOUNT IS A GUARANTEED EQUITY ACCOUNT IN THAT IT MEANS THAT THE "BANK" OF SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL LIMITED WILL UNDERWRITE TO YOU IN THE EVENT OF THE BANK'S FAILURE TO PAY AND RETURN TO YOU YOUR CAPITAL. DEPOSIT TOGETHER WITH THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL LIMITED'S FIDELITY CAPITAL AND RESERVES EXCEED 100% DEPOSITS PLACED WITH THE OFFICES OF THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL IN JERSEY ARE NOT COVERED BY THE DEPOSIT PROTECTION SCHEME UNDER THE UK BANKING ACT 1987.

Registered under the Bankers Business (Jersey) Law 1991. Incorporated in Jersey. Registered Office: Royal Bank House, 71 Bath Street, St. Helier, Jersey JE4 8PJ.

An Equitable pension means you can vary contributions — without penalty.

You know exactly what your circumstances are today, and can choose a pension plan to suit them perfectly.

But what about tomorrow? Or next year? Or ten years from now?

What you need is a pension plan which is flexible enough to cope with any changes in your lifestyle — without making you pay a penalty.

That is why you should consider an Equitable personal pension plan. We don't pay commission to third parties for the introduction of new business, and our expenses are kept extremely low. So, you don't have to commit yourself to paying identical contributions each year; they can be increased or reduced to suit you — without penalty.

And if you want to retire earlier than planned, your benefits will be exactly the same as if you'd chosen that date in the first place.

What's more, you have the reassurance of knowing that your pension fund is in the hands of one of the finest investment teams in the U.K.

So, if you'd like further information, by post and by telephone, on a personal pension plan that lives up to its name, call (0990) 38 48 58 or return the coupon below.

Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BEDFORDSHIRE MK45 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BEDFORDSHIRE MK45 7BR
I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self-employed ☐ TAFFIC
I am an employee not in a company pension scheme ☐

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) _____
ADDRESS _____
Date of Birth _____

Tel. (Office) _____
Tel. (Home) _____
Date of Birth _____

Postcode _____
We guarantee this is a company website. The Equitable Life is a company website. We guarantee this is a company website. We guarantee this is a company website.

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

AGED 40? WANT TO RETIRE AT 55? ONLY 180 PAY PACKETS LEFT.

Frightening isn't it? But it needn't be if you start planning for your retirement with Abbey Life now. To begin with we'll send you our easy-to-use pension calculator. This shows you how to make the most of those remaining pay packets. For your free calculator and an information pack call us now. Or return the coupon.

0800 20 20 40 **FREE**

Return to Abbey Life, FREEPOST CM 274, Wallington, Surrey SM6 7BR
Reference: PENA61

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Date of Birth: _____

AbbeyLife PENSIONS

Abbey Life Assurance Company Limited, Registered office, 80 Hildesheim Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH8 9AL. Registered in England No. 270028. Abbey Life Assurance Company Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and is a member of the FSC.

712p to 75p.

Clare Stewart explains why car insurance quotes vary so much

Going for Golf



Golf star: Paula Hamilton's stylish rejection of her man and her fur but not her Golf boosted the hatchback's sales

Anyone who has renewed or taken out car insurance recently and telephoned a handful of insurers picked at random from *Yellow Pages*, may have been surprised by the wide spread of premiums on offer. One reader of *The Times* for example, reports quotes ranging from £159 to £411 for a policy to cover a new car while last week my own research among a dozen insurance companies and brokers produced premiums varying from £175 to £254 (see below). All of which is good news if it means that shopping around results in big savings. But why is there such a difference?

No one is surprised that it is cheaper to insure an Austin Allegro in Little Snoring than a Ferrari in inner London, but such a spread of premium for the same risk prompts slower examination. It also raises the question of what you get for your money. Inevitably there is no simple answer. The range of prices quoted reflects supply and demand say some insurers. Certainly the competitiveness of the market is made clear by the eagerness of some insurers to cut premiums instantly if you give them a price to beat.

The difficulty for the car owner is to know which insurer is most interested in their business and therefore able to offer the best package of both cover and service in the event of your making a claim. In some instances making the match is relatively easy where insurers set out their stalls to attract a very specific category of drivers such as classic car enthusiasts or people with performance cars.

For Ms average, going through a broker rather than ploughing round a selection of companies, may provide the quickest answer. A good broker, says Eamonit Browne, chairman of the motor panel of BITBA (British Insurance and Investment

Brokers Association), can advise people on a range of options, drawing on their knowledge of the insurance market and of the client's precise needs.

In spite of the success of the direct insurers which first appeared in the late 1980s, there has been a trend back towards brokers, says Mr Brown. Not surprisingly brokers are keen to challenge the belief that going direct is automatically the cheapest option or indeed that price alone should be the deciding factor in choosing your insurer. If you select an insurance package through a broker or other intermediary it will include a commission element typically about 10-12 per cent, but says Mr Brown, brokers are directly competitive with direct insurers.

In theory, while intermediaries have access to a wide range of insurance options, in practice many put much of their business through a relatively small number of companies and are therefore able to take advantage of discounts offered on a certain volume of business. The direct approach to selling insurance made its mark with companies such as Direct Line promoting themselves on the basis of low overheads and no middlemen equalling low premiums for customers.

But direct insurers have significant overheads such as advertising costs to meet and the newer companies are now being squeezed by the build-up of claims, the decline in car premium levels over the past few years and the increasing number of personal injury claims now being pursued, covering problems such as whiplash as a result of an accident.

Direct Line, with more than two million policyholders and one of the largest companies in the private insurance market, last year saw its profits fall sharply,

from £112 million to £26.5 million in the year to September. The group, part of the Royal Bank of Scotland, blamed growing claims and competition.

Confusingly there is a degree of overlap between the different companies offering insurance. Large insurance groups may have their own direct business, also sell through brokers and other agents, and have subsidiaries acting as insurance agents for a range of insurers. The AA acts as an intermediary with 13 insurance companies on its books but this summer is also planning to set up its own direct insurance company in a joint venture with Eagle Star, which will target AA members. To add to the problem insurance companies and intermediaries are all lumped together in *Yellow Pages* as "insurance agents".

The distinction between brokers and agents is also often blurred as many offer a similar service. Brokers are registered under the 1977 Brokers Registration Act and are bound by a code of conduct, while agents and other intermediaries do not have an equivalent governing body though conform to the Association of British Insurers code of conduct. The outlook for car insurance premiums continues to be variable and more unsettled than in recent years. The fierce competition in the past two years has seen some insurers cut premiums to the bone to hold market share.

Rates hit the bottom of the cycle last year and are now rising. Last month, insurance premium tax rose from 2.5 to 4 per cent and, even excluding this increase, according to the AA's quarterly British Insurance Premium Index average comprehensive car premiums have risen 2.5 per cent since January and are forecast to rise 8-10 per cent this year.

How the insurer reaches his price

In explaining price differences, insurers use the analogy of choosing budget own-label products in a supermarket as opposed to a premium branded product, although cheaper policies sometimes appear to offer more.

But, said Mike Jones, head of group corporate affairs for Royal Sun Alliance, "you cannot underestimate the costs of different cover added on by insurers."

These might include cover for driving abroad, use of a courtesy car if your own is off the road after an accident or access to a 24-hour helpline. Such details may be standard on some policies, added extras on others, so it is worth checking the small print to find out exactly what different policies offer.

There is also the attitude of each insurer to risks. "Each company will have a different view based on its experience," added Mr Jones. When calculating a premium, each insurer will have its own view on risks associated with different types of car and the age and history of the driver. The insurer will also look at how premium income is weighed against the company's past history of claims and expectations of future claims.

The premium you are quoted will further depend on how well your risk fits with the insurer's view of its target market.

"Increasingly companies are more choosy about the type of business they attract," said David Ross, of Guardian Insurance.

In a competitive market with slim profit margins, the trend has been for insurers to carve their own niche by targeting the more specialised areas, such as young, older, or lady drivers. So you may be quoted a high premium because you do not fit an insurer's target market and it is pricing itself out of the running.

PLAIN SPEAKING HOME INSURANCE

"Renew your home insurance in May or June and save around £100"

UP TO
£25
OFF
BUILDINGS
INSURANCE

UP TO
32%
OFF
CONTENTS
INSURANCE

Switch your buildings insurance from your mortgage lender to Prudential and we'll give you £25 off your first year's buildings premium.

What's more, if you take out combined buildings and contents insurance, you'll receive a 15% discount off your contents premium.

And if you're aged 45 or over, then there's up to 20% off your buildings and contents premiums.

In fact, the average saving for customers who switch to Prudential is £100. With savings like these, it's no wonder that over 90% of our customers renewed their policies with us last year.

For a free quote and a free home security video ring

0800 300 300

PRUDENTIAL

Lines are open Sat to Sun Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm Saturday and 10am to 4pm Sunday. For your protection, calls on this number will be recorded. Please note, in some cases we may not be able to provide a quote. Please quote reference PRS 080.

Penny Shares Are Booming

Make An Average Gain Of 412% On Shares Costing Less Than £1

That's exactly what you could have done if you had invested in the Top 5 performers on the Stock Market for just 12 months... and significantly, they were all Penny Shares!

Now you can seize these winners for yourself! Penny Share Guide is Britain's No.1 newsletter for typing those companies that have the most explosive potential for growth.

and profit... and you can claim your FREE copy right now!

For a free copy of the latest Penny Share Guide and a comprehensive report on the Penny Share scene plus details of how you can claim a free copy of the "Investor's Guide to How the Stock Market Really Works" published by the Financial Times/Prudential Publishing, worth £19.99, call us FREE on 0800 823 873 NOW or simply fill in the coupon below and return it to Penny Share Guide, FREEPOST NW 3521, Edinburgh EH4 6FX (no stamp required).

* Mid-year to mid-year, including dividend and dividends, based on the Financial Times Top 500 Share Index. The guide is not intended as a guide to future performance. Investments in smaller companies generally have a higher risk factor and it can be more difficult to realise such an investment. This investment is not suitable for overseas. If you have any doubts, you should discuss them with your adviser.

Yes! Please rush me a FREE copy of the latest Penny Share Guide and the FREE Penny Share market report pack, please also send me details of a special half-price offer for one year's subscription to the Penny Share Guide, including how I can claim my FREE investment book worth £19.99.

Name: _____ Mr/Ms/Ms

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Send me Penny Share Guide, FREEPOST, NW3521, Edinburgh EH4 6FX (no stamp required).

Approved by The Financial Publications, Restricted by the Financial Services Authority. It is not an offer to sell or a recommendation to buy any shares. Penny Share Guide is not a financial product. It is a publication. It is not intended to be used as a basis for investment decisions. It is not intended to be used as a basis for investment decisions. It is not intended to be used as a basis for investment decisions.

FREEPHONE: 0500 823 873

Comprehensive cover to include some business use for 1990 G-registration, 1300cc Golf for a female aged 34 living in Surrey with clean licence for 16 years, and with insured no-claims bonus.

■ RAC, £175.64 — £100 excess for accidental damage and theft. Legal protection

THE QUOTES COMPARED

Included and provision of courtesy car while repairs carried out after an accident. Discount on RAC membership if not already member. No-blame, no-penalty clause means NCB or bonus protection is not affected if a claim is made after damage by unknown or uninsured party.

■ Direct Line, £236.08 — no excess for fire and theft, £100 for accidental damage. Legal cover but no courtesy car.

■ Admiral, £250.07 — £120 excess for fire and theft, £360 excess for accidents. Legal protection, courtesy car, 24-hour roadside helpline and personal accident benefit. ■ Royal Insurance, £254 — £100 excess for damage, fire and theft. Includes Green Flag membership, legal protection and courtesy car.

WITH-PROFITS BOND

A worry-free investment offering the best of both worlds.

Security and Potential Capital Growth

If that sounds like your dream come true, then The Equitable With-Profits Bond is a winning combination for your investments. With £500 you can invest in a managed fund of assets, which smooths the short-term fluctuations in value over the period of your investment.

What is more, we guarantee that, whatever future market conditions are like, at the fifth and subsequent anniversaries you can encash your Bond for its original value plus bonuses accrued.

So, you can strike a balance between keeping your savings safe in a building society, but possibly eroded by inflation, and the potentially lucrative but more risky option of investment in equities.

And, as part of your medium to long-term investment plans, The Equitable With-Profits Bond can play an important and profitable part.

Of course, you also have the reassurance and peace of mind which comes from dealing with The Equitable Life, the world's oldest mutual life office.

If you would like more information on achieving the best of both worlds with The Equitable With-Profits Bond, call (0990) 38 48 58, or return the coupon below for details by post and by telephone.

www.equitable.co.uk

Information advice will only be given on Equitable group products

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BEDFORDSHIRE MK45 7BR
To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Beds MK45 7BR
I would welcome information on The Equitable With-Profits Bond ☐ TMBCTF

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms)

ADDRESS

Tel. (Office)

Tel. (Home)

Date of Birth



The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

Cashing in your Endowment Policy?

More than money.

Market leading prices and service with a free 48 hour quote.
London/Scott: 01821 851333 Scotland: 0121 789 2500
North: 0113 230 1941 South: 0141 353 6311 Please quote TTB25

Call today, lines always open. Beale Dobie
Beale Dobie & Company Limited, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 13

1964

2.39
0.52
0.02
0.26
0.26
1.04
0.17
1.59
1.71
2.71
4.02
0.35
0.35
0.42
1.34
0.22
2.16
0.06

LTN	
00	0.89
74	1.14
35	2.25
30	1.55
30	5.78
50	8.85
30	4.55
50	5.27
54	5.21
59	
57	
73	1.50
12	
15	2.50
30	2.50
34	2.27
36	
42	

10	1.33
11	1.55
12	1.40
13	1.21
14	1.57
15	1.45
16	0.14
17	1.23
18	7.00
19	0.83
20	1.20
21	0.80
22	0.24
23	1.27

9	1.05
8	1.05
7	3.52
6	11.25
5	1.56
4	6.85
3	5.55
2	1.25
1	4.17
0	4.17
	0.24
4	1.89
3	1.59
2	6.46
1	1.40
0	0.01
7	0.43
6	0.17
5	0.01

7	175
0	0.66
0	
9	1.06
1	.
0	
2	0.97
0	
0	2.26
0	0.42
1	0.23
0	
0	1.09
0	1.09
0	1.14
0	1.20
0	5.56
.	
.	
1	1.67
0	

5	5.38
6	0.18
7	4.23
8	1.65
9	2.07
?	6.24
0	0.72
1	7.01
2	7.01
3	8.52
4	3.55
5	0.01
6	2.57
7	0.15
8	1.94
9	1.94
0	2.12
1	2.12

0.13
7.26
1.19
0.01
1.23

2.76
3.15
6.67
4.35
3.34
1.72
0.68

1.49
1.40

4.37
4.37
0.75
0.75
1.70
1.70
6.28
6.28
1.28
1.28
3.38
3.38
0.66
0.66
2.09
2.09
0.08
0.08
0.35
0.35
0.85
0.85
0.77
0.77
1.27
1.27
4.30
4.30
4.43
4.43

1.60
0.00
5.00
1.00
0.70
5.30

4.55
2.57
1.10
0.71
0.60
4.73
7.50
1.20

4.50
...

Gen'l Corp	169.60	176.30	+ 3.30	Gen'l Corp	71.70	68.73	- 2.96
Gen'l Corp	159.60	176.30	+ 3.70	Gen'l Corp	70.00	73.60	+ 3.60
Gen'l Corp	725.60	762.60	+ 2.40	Gen'l Corp	72.50	68.42	- 3.18
Gen'l Corp	766.60	815.60	+ 2.30	Gen'l Corp	76.91	80.52	+ 2.97
Gen'l Corp	105.00	109.30	+ 3.50	Gen'l Corp	58.29	60.66	+ 1.46
Gen'l Corp	174.70	178.40	+ 3.80	Gen'l Corp	130.60	135.40	+ 4.80
Gen'l Corp	115.90	123.20	+ 3.50	Gen'l Corp	260.50	275.90	+ 8.50

Value & gain	729.60	135.80	+ 1.10	4.23	Far Eastern Inc.	120.00	494.20	+ 16.20
Bank Spec Sell Acc	407.70	114.60	+ 1.00	0.06	-de- Account	210.50	122.40	+ 4.80
Extra Income	199.60	212.50	+ 6.20	4.31	-de- Account	210.50	223.60	+ 5.00
-de- Account	365.30	282.30	+ 8.40	4.71	-de- Account	31.75	57.16	+ 2.00
Far East	407.50	428.30	+ 4.00	0.58	Mid American Inc.	373.60	387.20	+ 12.70
-de- Account	412.00	438.30	+ 4.10	0.09	-de- Account	412.90	430.80	+ 14.00
Credit Income	30.84	32.23	+ 0.50	1.99	Mid Growth Inc.	245.20	260.50	+ 6.70
					Shuttle Services Inc.			

WOODLAW UNIT TRUST MONS LTD				
0781 208 4000				
and Mgt:	81.73	85.62	+ 3.89	1.81
UK Shareholder:	716.30	728.40	+ 12.10	2.20
Corporate Gd Inc:	50.05	50.13	+ 0.08	0.16
Debt Income:	50.57	50.59	+ 0.02	0.39

ing on
satellite.
er will
ee of
er No
und:

7.30
atures
8.30

ve (r)
rden

isso
the
nity

et
ry

y
J

RACING: FRENCH CLASSICS PRODUCE MEAGRE ENTRY AT LONGCHAMP TOMORROW



Yalaie, the Greenham Stakes winner, is among five British contenders for the French 2000 Guineas at Longchamp tomorrow

Daylami can repel strong raiding party

FROM LIZ PRICE IN PARIS

THE Dubai Poule d'Essai des Poulains and the Pouliches (the two French Guineas) at Longchamp tomorrow have a disappointing turnout with just seven runners in each event. The two classics look more like the English Guineas, with more than half of the runners British-trained.

In the Poule d'Essai des Poulains, the British raiders look to have more than a fair chance of beating the French opposition. The Clive Brittain-trained Fantasia Fellow, who won his trial, the Prix Diebel last month, is expected to put up a bold show. "Fantasia Fellow has improved since his last race," Brittain said. "John Reid came down on Saturday and was very happy with the horse's condition. He has a good turn of foot so it doesn't matter where he is put in the race."

Another serious contender is Yalaie, trained by Michael Stoute, who beat

Revoque in the Greenham Stakes and will appreciate the soft ground. The Godolphin-owned Bahamian Bounty is hoping to get a better run here than he did in the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket, where he finished fourth.

On form, he is definitely a threat, having already beaten Zamindar and Fantastic Fellow last term. Nevertheless, this can go to the Aga Khan's Daylami, who won the Prix de Fontainebleau impressively two weeks ago. This likeable colt is an entry for the Derby at Epsom and should not be underestimated.

Criquette Head is seeking revenge with Always Loyal in the Dubai Poule d'Essai des Pouliches, having lost out in the 1,000 Guineas with Pas De Response. But she is facing tough competition as five English-trained fillies are in opposition.

The fan-balding-trained Seebie, second in the Fred

Darling Stakes, must be respected, while Red Camella and the two Godolphin horses, Nighbird and Star Profile, will be making their seasonal reappearance after showing useful form last year. Peter Chapple-Hyam saddles Dances With Dreams. The Manton trainer said: "We are riding at windmills in this race, but she will appreciate the soft ground."

Although there are only two French fillies competing, they can dominate the finish, with Always Loyal taken to confirm her narrow course and distance victory over Mousse Glace.

Only five runners line up for the third group one race of the day, the Prix Lupin. In the absence of any British contenders, the André Fabre-trained Chevalier should be hard to beat. He has already beaten Astarabad and the soft ground will be to his advantage.

Deadly Dudley, trained by Richard Hannan, was a late withdrawal yesterday from the Dubai Poule d'Essai des Poulains because of a setback. Mary Lou, a spokeswoman for the owners, Lucayan Stud, said: "He was lame this morning."

LONGCHAMP TOMORROW BBC2

GOING: SOFT DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.10 DUBAI POULE D'ESSAI DES POULICHES

(Group 1, 3-Y-O fillies, £112,233, 1m) (7 runners)

- | | | |
|---|--|--------|
| 1 | (2) ALWAYS LOYAL 21 (GB) (A. Khan) M. Stoute 9-0 | F Head |
| 2 | (1) RED CAMELLA 24 (GB) (D. O'Brien) M. Stoute 9-0 | F Head |
| 3 | (3) DANCES WITH DREAMS 17 (GB) (P. Chapple-Hyam) P. Chapple-Hyam 9-0 | F Head |
| 4 | (4) BAHAMIAN BOUNTY 25 (GB) (D. O'Brien) M. Stoute 9-0 | F Head |
| 5 | (5) PAS DE RESPONSE 21 (GB) (A. Khan) M. Stoute 9-0 | F Head |
| 6 | (6) FANTASIA FELLOW 21 (GB) (C. Brittain) C. Brittain 9-0 | F Head |
| 7 | (7) SEEBIE 23 (GB) (D. O'Brien) M. Stoute 9-0 | F Head |

BETTING: 5-4 Always Loyal, 10-11 Seebie, 10-11 Fantasia Fellow, 10-11 Red Camella, 10-11 Bahamian Bounty, 10-11 Pas De Response, 10-11 Dances With Dreams.

1996: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1995: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1994: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1993: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1992: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1991: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1990: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1989: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1988: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1987: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1986: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1985: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1984: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1983: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1982: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1981: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1980: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1979: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1978: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1977: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1976: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1975: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1974: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1973: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1972: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1971: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1970: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1969: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1968: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1967: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1966: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1965: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1964: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1963: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1962: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1961: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1960: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1959: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1958: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1957: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1956: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1955: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1954: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1953: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1952: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1951: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1950: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1949: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1948: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1947: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1946: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1945: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1944: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1943: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1942: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1941: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1940: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1939: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1938: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1937: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1936: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1935: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1934: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1933: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1932: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1931: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1930: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1929: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1928: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1927: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1926: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1925: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1924: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1923: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1922: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1921: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1920: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1919: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1918: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

1917: 1A Red Camella (9-0) 2A Dances With Dreams (9-0) 3A Always Loyal (9-0) 4A Seebie (9-0) 5A Fantasia Fellow (9-0) 6A Bahamian Bounty (9-0) 7A Pas De Response (9-0)

THREE MEETINGS TOMORROW

BATH

THUNDERER
2.00 TAUFINA'S MELODY (nap), 2.30 Silent Pride.
3.00 Silvery, 3.30 Thera, 4.00 Conspiracy, 4.30 Literary Society, 5.00 Paradise Navy.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: 5F-1M, 10M, 15M, 20M, 25M, 30M, 35M, 40M, 45M, 50M, 55M, 60M, 65M, 70M, 75M, 80M, 85M, 90M, 95M, 100M, 105M, 110M, 115M, 120M, 125M, 130M, 135M, 140M, 145M, 150M, 155M, 160M, 165M, 170M, 175M, 180M, 185M, 190M, 195M, 200M, 205M, 210M, 215M, 220M, 225M, 230M, 235M, 240M, 245M, 250M, 255M, 260M, 265M, 270M, 275M, 280M, 285M, 290M, 295M, 300M, 305M, 310M, 315M, 320M, 325M, 330M, 335M, 340M, 345M, 350M, 355M, 360M, 365M, 370M, 375M, 380M, 385M, 390M, 395M, 400M, 405M, 410M, 415

CRICKET: ENGLAND COLLEAGUES DEMONSTRATE THEIR ALL-ROUND SKILLS ON DAY OF BRISK ACTIVITY

Gough's verve countered by Croft's craft

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT



Gough: inspired spell

HEADINGLEY (third day of four): Glamorgan, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 163 runs ahead of Yorkshire

DARREN GOUGH and Robert Croft were inseparable on the England winter tour — kindred spirits, sharing a noisy exuberance that led the coach, David Lloyd, to label them affectionately "the children". They are central to England's Ashes strategy this summer, too, but yesterday they took lead roles as opponents on a day of rich entertainment at Headingley.

This match entered its third day with only one wicket down, Glamorgan's batsmen having dominated the 66 overs possible between the deluges on Wednesday before a blank Thursday had, by all logic, severely reduced the possible outcomes.

But apparently not. By lunchtime, eight more wickets had fallen, five of

them to Gough in one of those inspired spells he bowls with chest puffed out, cheeks reddening with effort and that irresistible look in his eyes. Only Croft defied him for long. Batting at No 6, as he must be to be considered a Test-match all-rounder, he stayed two hours for 57 as Glamorgan were bowled out for 336.

Yorkshire responded positively, keen to establish their title credentials, but their batting was too frenetic. When Croft, settling in at the football stand end, took his second wicket, they were 130 for six, 57 short of avoiding the follow-on.

Gough, grumbling good-naturedly as bowlers like to do when the batsmen have let them down, all but banished that disagreeable prospect with a dashing 28. As is his wont, however, runs went to his head. Croft, whose cricket, unlike that of his friend, does not forever mirror the effervescence of his nature, lured him out and Yorkshire then had to weather an uncomfortable confrontation with Waqar Younis before

attaining a safer haven and declaring before the delayed close.

Gough was indignantly swift to deny that there was any legacy of dampness in the pitch to help him and nor was there any extravagant swing. The ball turned slowly, enough for Croft to fancy his chances of winning the game today, but the clatter of wickets could almost entirely be credited to careless batting.

Adrian Dale, the first of the day's 17 casualties, can be excused. He received a beauty from Gough, leaving him sufficiently to induce a twitch of the bat and an edge to Blakely. This ended a second-wicket stand of 139 and Glamorgan were now to lose seven wickets for 27.

Gough twice went past Matthew Maynard's outside edge before the Glamorgan captain escaped to the other end and promptly edged Silverwood to the right of second slip, where Byas took a sharp catch. Steve James, flawless during his 109, was then thrown out by Vaughan, from backward point, as he called Cotley

for a sharp single. Command was ebbing away from Glamorgan and, when the total reached 250, Gough snatched it for himself.

Three wickets fell on that score. Cotley caught behind as he flapped at a short one and Butcher and Shaw, failing in their footwork, leg before to successive balls. Thomas avoided the hat-trick but then sliced a drive to gully to complete Gough's wicket-to-wicket analysis of five for 11.

So one England player, at least, is on top of his game. No, make that two. Croft has been fitted as a celebrity since returning to Wales from his highly successful first senior tour but it has not altered him one bit. Nor, more importantly, has it deflected him from his cricket. He batted here with studied intent, occasionally in trouble as he planted his back foot prematurely but vividly determined not to get out to Gough.

Croft and Steve Waikin generated 51 for the last wicket and Croft had just struck Stemp over the football stand when, in trying to repeat the

stroke, he was stumped. For many of those present, this ushered on the main event as Waqar marked out his run for his first championship spell for Glamorgan.

It was all something of a disappointment, though doubtless not for Yorkshire. Waqar's efforts to make the ball swing away were fruitless and he bowled a sequence of innocuous balls down the leg side.

McGrath, having flicked two of them tidily for four, was unlucky to make thin contact with a third and departed as Shaw brought off a tumbling catch. Despite a much improved second spell from the Kirkstall Lane End, this was to be Waqar's only success.

Darren Lehmann, the game's other overseas player, made a typically bristling 54, 48 of them in thumping fours, but Yorkshire were losing wickets too quickly. Croft had taken one with his first ball, took another with his first after tea and finished with four, a tally he will look at least to double today.

Speak puts Durham on course for rare triumph

BY IVO TENNANT

HARTLEPOOL (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 93 runs behind Durham

TODAY, Durham might just win a championship match. If they do, it will be the first time since 1995 and will come about not through an ill-judged declaration or any kind of joke cricket, but on merit. Nick Speak and David Boon, neither of whom can be associated with the county's failings in past years, made sufficient runs to earn a first-innings lead of 161 and that, for Durham, is riches indeed. Now they must account for Nottinghamshire's eight remaining wickets.

Having bowled out their opponents for 170 on the first day, they were held up when play was washed out on Thursday. Nottinghamshire's time will come again — or at least it will if they can persuade somebody like Clive Rice to return and energise them — but Durham, like Middlesbrough's footballers tomorrow, need plenty of luck.

They resumed yesterday 55 runs behind Nottinghamshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand. Nothing seemed more likely than that Boon would make his first century for his adopted county, after a half-century against Oxford University and an unbeaten 85 against Lancashire. His autobiography, newly published, will have to be updated if he can imbue his players with a sense of self.

He collected runs off his legs assiduously and was not deterred from driving when Bowen or Franks dropped short of a length. It was a surprise when, in the first over of spin, he was taken at silly point off bat and pad. Bates, with his off breaks, was preferred here to the two left-armers, Afford and Hindson, and he bowled them most frugally.

Nobody is likely to benefit



Speak benefits

more from batting with Boon this season than Speak, who left Lancashire because he was not given enough first-team opportunities. There have been any number of cricketers who have joined Durham too late in their careers to make a proper impression, but he should not be one of them. Now-30, he has a career average of nearly 40.

He should have made a century here. In all probability he would have done had he refused Brown's call for a risky run when on 93. Initially he had turned his back on his partner, which gave him insufficient time to beat Brown's throw. His innings came off 254 balls and included 12 fours.

Other than that, there were contributions from Speight, who is keen to build a reputation as a more responsible batsman, and Brown himself. Tolley took two wickets in successive balls when he had Foster leg-before, not properly forward, and Bolling caught at the wicket flicking airily outside off stump. Durham merited their considerable lead.

What they still have to resolve this season is how to find enough support for Brown if their opponents are to be bowled out twice. Walker might have been handed the new ball, given that he had taken seven Nottinghamshire first-innings wickets on Wednesday, but, instead, Killeen lost his rhythm, spraying down the leg side too often. He did take the wicket of Pollard, but that owed everything to a brilliant left-handed catch by Bolling in the gully.

Soon, Robinson was collecting runs as he has done unobtrusively and often, unerringly for nearly 20 years. Last year, Durham made Nottinghamshire follow on and he came up with an innings of 184 to save the match. He remains in the middle to attempt to do so again. One further wicket fell just before the close, Bolling having Archer leg-before pushing half-forward.

Johnson to rescue in belligerent fashion

BY SIMON WILDE

WORCESTER (third day of four): Leicestershire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 47 runs behind Worcestershire

NEIL JOHNSON, the fourth man Leicestershire turned to in their search for an overseas player this season and whose name meant nothing to the average English cricket follower when his signing was announced, provided further evidence yesterday that he may be capable of fulfilling more than a stand-in role.

He scored a belligerent unbeaten 87 — having come to the wicket with the champions in dire trouble at 14 for three, following on 188 behind — to add to the wicket he took with his first ball on Wednesday.

Without the Naan all-rounder's efforts, Leicestershire might already be licking their wounds after a three-day thrashing. Such an outcome was on the cards after an awful morning session in which they lost eight wickets for 62 runs on a pitch that continued to provide extravagant movement off the seam.

Resuming on 42 for five, Leicestershire resistance was so minimal that within 50 minutes they had been dismissed for 69 — easily the lowest total of the season — and their second innings was not 12 overs old by the time Sutcliffe, Habib and Wells had each fallen for his second single-figure score of the game. Wells, indeed, collected his second duck of the game, avoiding the indignity of a "king pair" in his first championship match as captain by only one ball, undone again by one of the many outswingers on display.

The bowler on that occasion was Haynes, whose analysis then read 0.2-0-0-2, his first ball having dispatched Habib in similar fashion. Leicestershire's destroyers, though, were Newport and Sherriff, who became the first Worcestershire pair to bowl unchanged through an innings for 20 years. They bowled outstandingly well, never giving the batsmen a moment's peace, and Newport thoroughly deserved his best return

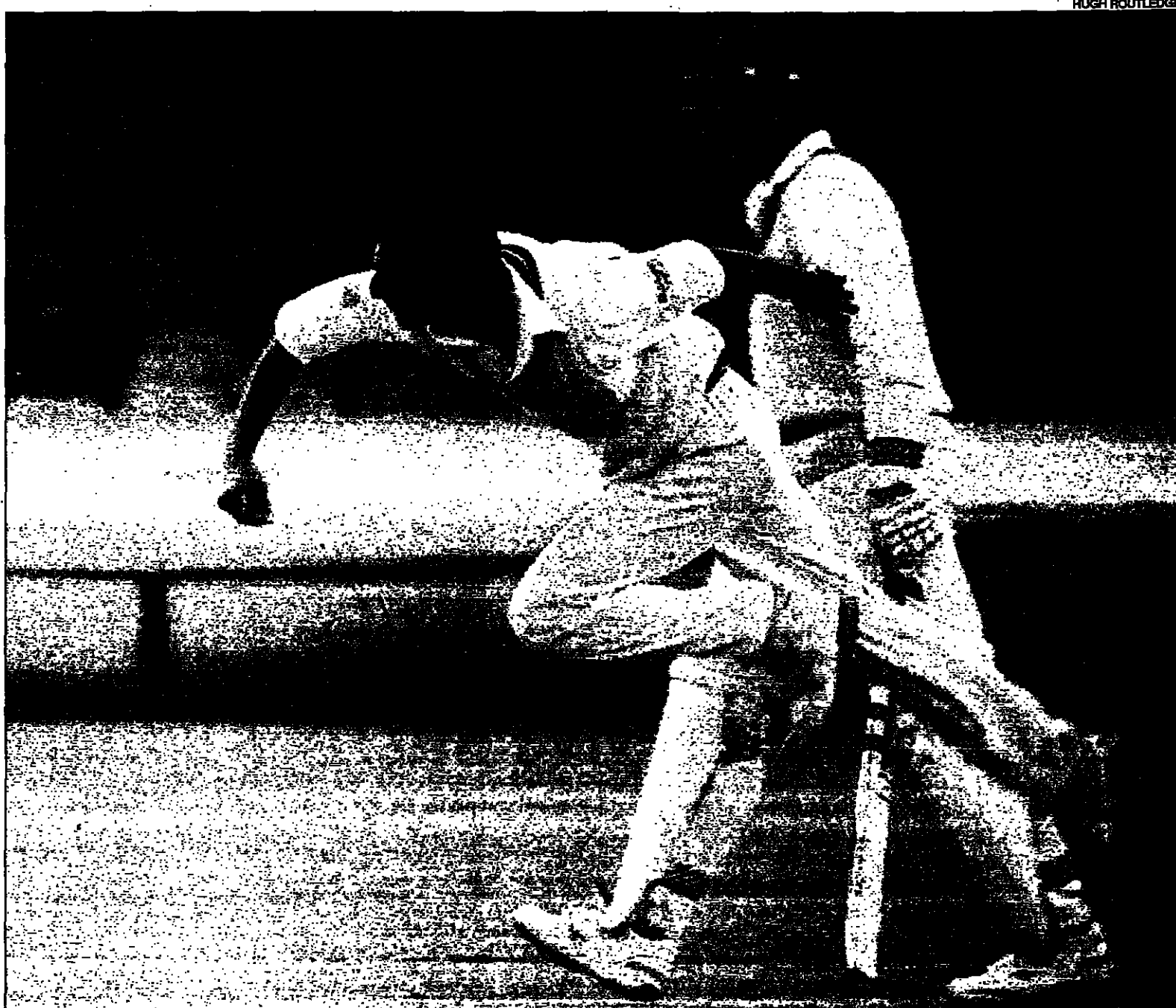
for nine years, seven for 37. His figures would have been better still had not MacMillan struck him for three successive boundaries in a typically brash attempt to take them past the follow-on target of 108. He was ninth out charging down the pitch to Sherriff and looked round just in time to see his leg stump flying through the air.

Newport had still not conceded a run in four overs in the second innings when he had Sutcliffe caught at second slip by Hick to put Leicestershire in further trouble. Understandably, he and Sherriff were soon in need of rest but Haynes's double strike kept up the pressure and had Moody held a share chance from Johnson in his third over Leicestershire might have been dead and buried.

Johnson, 27, had then scored seven and not yet gauged the conditions but later showed a wonderful eye as he punished a tiring attack. He was given sound support by the imperturbable Maddy, whom he outscored three to one during a fourth-wicket partnership of 118 in 27 overs. A brilliant diving catch by Rhodes removed Maddy and gave Chapman his first championship wicket for his new county but Worcestershire were denied the chance to make further inroads when bad light brought a premature close at four o'clock.

Although it is tempting to focus on Leicestershire's shortcomings, Worcestershire deserve credit, too. Their attack will be stronger once Illingworth returns and, by sacrificing pace for accuracy, Sherriff has been a revelation. They are likelier to be a force in one-day cricket but David Houghton, their coach, is justifiably optimistic about their championship prospects.

It is because he believes their best years lie ahead that Houghton, whose contract ends in September, wants to commit his future to the county. At 39, he is no longer willing to divide his time between Worcestershire and Zimbabwe, where he is player-coach of the national team.



Mohammad Akram, who ended with five wickets, and the batsman, Rose, who scored a century, were key figures at Northampton

Rose and Burns lead Somerset recovery

BY PAT GIBSON

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are one run behind Somerset

JOHN EMBUREY was not planning to shoot a horror movie when he took up his position behind the bowler's arm with one of those video cameras that have become such an essential tool of the cricket coach's trade. Yet that is what it will look like to his Northamptonshire players if they ever summon up the courage to analyse the events of yesterday.

He did manage a few happy snaps in the morning, when Mohammad Akram and Paul Taylor were reducing Somerset to 73 for seven, but there were some harrow-

ing scenes afterwards as Michael Burns and Graham Rose put on 170 for the eighth wicket.

Burns, an all-purpose cricketer who followed Dermot Reeve, the new Somerset coach, from Edgbaston to Taunton, made 82, one run more than his previous highest score, while Rose, his seventh first-class century, when Somerset were finally out for 290. Their last three wickets had put on 217.

There was no obvious explanation for the remarkable turnaround, apart from the fact that the pitch may have lost some of its juice. It was just another example of what can happen in this extraordinary game when a couple of dropped catches here, a few bits of luck there, hand the initiative to the batsmen.

It had all looked so straightforward for Northamptonshire when Akram, who had taken three for 11 the night before, confirmed what a promising bowler he is. Whereas he had got his earlier wickets by bowling fast and straight, he was now moving the ball off the seam and in his second over he pitched one perfectly to have Bowler well caught by Bailey, diving low to his left at second slip. Taylor's swing was the perfect foil. Caddick, the nightwatchman, was soon leg-before, Holloway went the same way and Turner was bowled, driving expansively down the wrong line.

Then it all began to go wrong. Boswell had Burns dropped at second slip by Montgomery and the returning Akram had Rose put down by Capel at first slip.

After that, the edges did not even go to hand. In one over from Akram, Rose twice flashed attempted hooks over the wicketkeeper's head, the first one going for four, the second for six.

Thus encouraged, Burns and Rose prospered. Burns began to play the shots of a genuine batsman and Rose laid about him with some abandon, particularly against Boswell.

They had been together for 41 overs and were within two runs of Somerset's eighth-wicket record — established by the rather more formidable pairing of Richards and Botham in 1983 — when Burns top-edged a sweep against Snape.

Musket soon sliced a drive to cover to give Boswell some consolation but there was still time for more North-

amptonshire suffering. Rose had just completed his century off 136 balls with 12 fours and a six when Capel dropped him again, off Boswell, and Shine had helped him add a further 37 for the last wicket by the time Akram came back to claim his fifth wicket.

So Northamptonshire found themselves going in again 105 runs behind and they were quickly in further trouble. Lloy, who was forced to change his bat because the protective covering was roughing up the ball, found the replacement, borrowed from the opposing captain, not too much to his liking when he was beautifully caught at cover. Bailey was leg-before to Rose and Curran was yorked by Caddick, before Montgomery and Penberthy got together in an unbroken stand at 39.

Peters gives repeat performance

BY RICHARD HOBSON

FENNER'S (final day of three): Cambridge University drew with Essex

MEN against boys is an expression frequently used to describe contests between the Universities and first-class opposition. Yesterday, though, Cambridge suffered at the hands of a player whose boyish appearance suggested that he could have been one of their own.

Stephen Peters, at 18, is thought within certain Essex circles to be a better batsman than either Gooch or Hussain at a similar age. While it would be folly to read too much into a single innings against the Cambridge attack, he clearly possesses potential in abundance.

In this same fixture last season he became the youngest Englishman to score a century on debut. He completed another hundred yesterday

in 95 minutes, dragging the game out of the torpor into which it had sunk in the opening session.

Essex did not deserve victory. Indeed, as they ground out 34 runs in the first hour, it was apparent that success ranked below practice on their list of priorities.

Peters began uncertainly, but, unlike Hibbert, his predecessor, he declined to prod and poke about for long. He attacked the off spin of Freeth and Rob Jones and, by the time the new ball was taken, he was close to outright domination. His second fifty came from just 35 balls.

This vigorous innings allowed Prichard to declare with a first-innings lead of 118. Cambridge unwisely shuffled their batting order and eventually had to call upon Smith, their leading batsman, to appear at No 8 and steer them through the final minutes alongside Hughes, who had relished the opportunity of

occupying Smith's regular opening position.

Essex took wickets regularly and, for the second time in the day, youthful exuberance came to the fore. Having been tossed the new ball, Wilson bowled House in his first over. Rob Jones fell pushing nervously at Andrew and a complete surrender seemed possible when Singh drove Napier to Wilson at mid-



Peters: rapid century

wicket. At last, Napier could feel he was in the Essex side for a reason. Like Wilson, he was making his debut but was mysteriously overlooked in the first innings.

A bowler of medium pace, Napier gave up a chance to join Ipswich Town as a goalkeeper to dedicate himself to cricket, a brave decision in an era in which football can lead on to fame and fortune and bowling leads invariably to back problems.

Napier soon claimed a second wicket as Steffen Jones swung at a leg-side delivery and was adjudged to have edged the ball to Hyam, the wicketkeeper, who had held a more difficult chance to account for Radledge, one of two wickets for Such.

Dawson was bowled on the back foot and it said much for the ambition of the visitors that Essex agreed to finish at 5.30, with just four student wickets intact and a possible ten overs remaining.

Hick misses tour opener

BY SIMON WILDE

GRAEME HICK, who is attempting to regain his England place this summer, has been denied the opportunity to play against the Australians in the opening match of their tour next Thursday.

The Northamptonshire player-coach, John Embury, is one of two counties without championship fixtures that day but they are playing in the Parks and David Houghton, the club's coach and Hick's mentor, has argued that he would be better engaged against Oxford University.

John Barclay, who managed the last two England winter tours, is assembling the Duke of Norfolk's XI to play the touring side at Arundel and he approached Worcestershire and Northamptonshire, who have a game at Fenner's, about the availability of their players. Houghton ruled out both himself and Hick, while Tom Moody, the Worcestershire captain and a former

Australia Test player, declined to appear against his compatriots. However, the former Worcestershire captain, Tim Curtis, will be in the side.

Reports yesterday suggested that Hick had turned down an invitation to play for the scratch side on what is customarily an informal occasion, but this was not the case and he was upset at the suggestion.

Having been overlooked for the England winter tour, Hick was expected to return from his enforced break in a blaze of runs. However, his first seven visits to the crease this season have produced just 94 runs.

The Northamptonshire player-coach, John Embury, will captain the Duke's XI, which will also include David Capel, Tim Walton and Neil Foster, who is development officer at Northampton. The rest of the side is made up of overseas players on league

cricket contracts, including Zimbabwe's Grant and Andy Flower and Andy Whitall, and the Australians, Shane Lee, who played for Somerset last season, and Brad McNamara.

Malcolm Speed, a leading basketball official for the past decade, has been named as the chief executive officer of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB). Speed, 48, executive chairman of the Australian National Basketball League, takes over from Graham Hallish — who was dismissed in January.

Speed, a lower-grade club cricketer in his youth, will not be travelling to England with the party to defend the Ashes, which was due to leave Sydney today. However, he will be heading for London later this year to attend the annual meeting of the International Cricket Council.

CRICKET: SHAMEFUL SUSSEX FAIL TO PREVENT MIDDLESEX'S MARCH TOWARDS VICTORY

Highlights provided by mash of the day

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

LORD'S (third day of four): Sussex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 297 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Middlesex.

SPECTATORS have had their money's worth this week. The hangers and mash at Lord's have been grand. For a fiver you can have four sausages from a long list that features wild-boar and apple, pork and leek and, of course, Cumberland. The onion gravy is excellent and the mustard will give your olfactory receptors a thorough workout. It's a long way from the "InterCity Sizzler".

At Lord's, where Sussex have very kindly kept Middlesex company these past three days (there was some odd talk in the Long Room of a match taking place), the menu has been slightly different. Diners have savoured:

- Stuffed Marlin.
- Greenfield Salad.
- Terrine of Duck.
- Grilled Trout Barley.
- Rabbit Pie (Hi, I'm Mark Robinson and I'm your waiter today).
- Hard cheese.

Not unnaturally it has left an unpleasant taste in the mouth.

If Sussex carry on playing cricket like this the England and Wales Cricket Board will feel obliged to diminish the points value of a win against them. To avoid defeat in this rain-affected game, which lost another 63 overs yesterday, they must bat through the final day, after following-on 303 runs behind. They do not deserve a draw but, if they apply their minds, they can still achieve one.

Can they apply themselves? That was the task yesterday and they fumbled it so wretchedly they were bowled out for 187. Bill Athey, 39 years young, finished with 60 not out and there were runs down the order from Paul Jarvis, who was dropped before he had scored, and Amer Khan, to go with his five wickets. The others should hold their heads in shame.



Getting on to a chance offered by Drakes to the obvious delight of his team-mates in the Middlesex slip cordon. Photograph: Graham Morris

Jamie Hewitt, who took four for 60, the best figures of his career, was the most successful of the Middlesex bowlers. He took the new ball ahead of Richard Johnson, who is still searching for full fitness, and who will be gratified by the three wickets that he took.

There were a couple for Jacques Kallis, the South African all-rounder, and, when he thought his day would go unrewarded, there was a late one for Angus Fraser. Kallis may be only 21 but he is clearly going to be a key

man in the Middlesex team this season. Mike Gatting, his captain, rates him highly as a fast-medium bowler no less than a stroke-playing batsman, and talk of him bowling only on Sundays is just that: talk.

Mention to Gatting the Sunday-only "verbal clause" that Al Bacher was supposed to have inserted in Kallis's contract and you will get a very funny look. He's going to surprise a few people this summer.

Sussex lost their first three

wickets for 31 on Thursday. Within an hour yesterday morning they had slipped to 74 for six as Johnson flattened Rao's middle stump. Drakes offered a slip catch to Gatting and Newell, who scored a century against Northamptonshire at Hove last week, was leg-before. To make 187, therefore, was quite a triumph.

The sub-plot of the innings was whether Fraser could contain his frustration. He was not altogether in the groove, but he did bowl some

good balls and he deserved better than to see Hewitt, malingering at long leg, put down a straightforward chance when Jarvis accepted the bait of a short-pitched ball with a top-edged hook.

Fraser's day was made more or less complete when he was taken off, and, with the next ball from the Pavilion End, Johnson took the wicket of Jarvis, who checked a drive to cover.

Dear old Gussie lumbered up to join the celebratory throng with a brow black as

thunder. He gave the bowler a pat but what he really wanted to say was: "Oh! Those are my wickets you're taking."

People have been kind to Sussex of late, sympathetic to the bizarre proceedings that led to the takeover of the club committee. It was thought that they might actually prosper from the winter blood-letting; that they might not be "all that bad". In this match they have played like boobies and, if they carry on like this much longer, they will end up with no friends at all.

Thorpe and Bicknell revive Surrey's spirits

By JACK BAILEY



Martin Bicknell: defiant 74 and two quick wickets

DERBY (third day of four): Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 154 runs behind Surrey.

WHAT with two days' play having been scuppered by rain, these two strong contenders for the championship will need to display either uncommon ingenuity or ineptitude for a result to be achieved. As it is, the matter rests — initially, at least — with some fine judgment by the captains and the odd innings forfeiture. But whatever the state of the match, yesterday was not wasted.

It produced a full day's competitive cricket and a welcome return to form by Graham Thorpe, whose 83 followed a dismal start to the season, with 102 runs from six innings and a best score of 47.

Apart from Thorpe's stay of nearly four hours, which became reassuringly

better as time went by, there was on display the usual mixture of handings and wayward misfires from Devon Malcolm, which brought four for 93 from 21 overs and cries of both joy and exasperation from Derbyshire's well-wishers.

It is no secret that Malcolm does not consider his England career to be over. Whether or not the same applies to the thoughts of Martin Bicknell, he it was who stole the day. After a masterly innings of 74 after coming in at the fall of Surrey's seventh wicket, he bowled with both pace and movement. He removed Rollins and Adams in double-quick time and found the edge on any number of occasions. If only he could stay fit for a whole season...

The comparative newcomer, Alex Tudor, also in the England selector's sights, hustled the ball through an impressive pace during a brief spell. He had Derbyshire's Gul Khan and even Dean Jones hopping about from

time to time, but he lacked Bicknell's accuracy and movement off the pitch.

Until Bicknell joined Thorpe in a stand of 74 for the eighth wicket, Surrey's laudable attempt to seize the initiative by batting first had looked doomed to failure. There was just enough moisture under the surface to make Malcolm and DeFreitas, and then Harris and Dean, daunting propositions. Of the early batsmen only Thorpe mustered a convincing innings and even he made a sketchy start, a beauty from DeFreitas leaving him off the seam and searing straight through him.

Yet this was small beer by comparison with what went on as Surrey stumbled to 16 for three. Darren Bicknell sparred at a lifter and was caught behind; Stewart looked unhappy about a ball from Malcolm that bounced less than expected; and he was soon followed to the pavilion by Butcher, who tried to pull a ball which

was of too full a length for the stroke and, like Stewart, was plumb in front.

Thorpe gradually found his feet. The old familiar nudge square of the wicket, the delayed forces off his legs gradually blossomed. He and Shahid restored semi-respectability by putting on 64 for the fourth wicket. When Harris and Dean entered the fray they accounted for Shahid and then Hollis. The Surrey captain was out to the last ball before lunch, taken with Surrey on 117 for five. When Malcolm returned from his fish and chips like a giant refreshed, he quickly disposed of Lewis and Salisbury and the Surrey score stood at 134 for seven.

Having edged his first ball, bowled by Malcolm, just wide of Smith, Bicknell settled in uncommonly well. His square over-driving was worthy of a higher place in the order, his defence uncompromising. Like Thorpe he played a large part in digging Surrey out of a big hole.

Young looks worthy heir to Gloucestershire throne

By JAMES ALLEN

BRISTOL (third day of four): Hampshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 41 runs behind Gloucestershire.

REPLACING a cricketer of Courtney Walsh's stature is a difficult task, but Gloucestershire usually manage it. Alderman, Smith and Gilbert have been able to fill the shoes of the departed. In this match, Russell emerged with a decent lead. Unlike the others, Shaun Young has not played Test cricket, which is yet another indication of the depth of talent in the Australian game. Yet everything he has done in this match suggests he is an accomplished all-rounder. In making 73 as Gloucestershire took control yesterday, he played with a fluency that only Lynch, who could not sustain his dashing progress beyond the first over, has equalled.

Lynch, who had illuminated the gloom of Thursday evening, wasted no time in relocating the boundary, thrashing the second ball he faced past point, and turning the next to the mid-wicket fence. It could not last; attempting something in the same exotic vein two balls later, he was comfortably snuffed by Keesh in the slips.

The entertainment did not end there, though it was now of a more orthodox nature, as the left-handed Young soon found his touch. In a stay of a

little over two hours, he punished anything overpitched, particularly on the leg stump, but played each ball on its merits. He did not have to wait long for the bad ones.

Young is sure to face stiffer examinations than the one that Hampshire have presented. Nobody but Traenor among the front-line Gloucestershire batsmen failed. Late in the day, Russell was able to collect runs at will and even Ball, who has no great reputation as a stroke-maker, made a jaunty contribution.

After the downfall first of Young and then Alleyne, both leg-before when playing forward, Russell accepted the responsibility of ensuring that their efforts were not wasted and that Gloucestershire emerged with a decent lead. Until he was bowled, swing-

ing at Stephenson, there had scarcely been a false shot.

Only Udal, who found little encouragement in the pitch, offered some variety in the bowling. Maru, who would have provided a different angle of attack, is the twelfth man. He made a brief appearance in which he caught Hancock at second slip.

Maru was on the field in place of Keesh, who hurried off after dislocating his thumb as he tried to scoop up an edge at slip. He is hopeful that he will be able to bat today.

He was not the only casualty. Kendall, who had earlier relieved Alleyne when failing to hold a stinging chance at mid-wicket, was struck on the forehead when he lost sight of Ball's firm clip. So depleted were Hampshire's resources that Shaun Graf, who is standing in as coach for Malcolm Marshall, had to take the field.

Such mishaps were in keeping with Hampshire's forlorn attempts to stay in contention. Confronted with a deficit of 87, their troubles grew when they went in again. Lawrence ran in with gusto for five overs, but it was Smith who accounted for both openers. Hayden, brilliantly taken at slip by Ball, did not score. Here is one Australian who is struggling.

When Stephenson perished off bat and pad, the prospect of Gloucestershire securing victory today became real.

Kapil Dev named turf consultant

By JOHN THICKNESSE

TEST cricket's most successful bowler, Kapil Dev, is to become India's head groundsman. The Indian Cricket Board, having taken note of criticism from visiting teams, has asked him to improve the quality of pitches and outfields across the country.

India has often been criticised for producing under-prepared pitches to suit its spinners, the board secretary, Jagmohan Dalmiya, said. "Kapil's brief is to examine how we can prepare sporting wickets."

Dalmiya added that Kapil, who has become a successful businessman since retiring three years ago, refused to accept any salary for his services, but the board had decided to pay him an honorarium.

Kapil, who toiled on the slow Indian pitches for 16 years before retiring with 434 Test wickets, said that he was delighted to accept the challenge. "This is a good way to give something back to Indian cricket," he said. "Being a seamer, I know how hard it is for bowlers of that type in India."

"The ideal pitch is one which favours the new-ball bowlers at the start and even out for batting before taking turn in the later stages." India have not lost a series at home since 1987, even though they have won only one Test abroad in the same period.

Oxford let down by poor show at crease

By JOHN THICKNESSE

THE PARKS (final day of three): Warwickshire beat Oxford University by an innings and 53 runs.

OXFORD needed sizeable contributions from Byron Byrne and their other remaining specialist batsmen to set Warwickshire problems on the last day yesterday. In the event, the university lost three crucial wickets in the first 65 minutes and only a stubborn seventh-wicket stand between Peter Morgan and Chetan Patel kept the game going until the middle of a breezy afternoon.

Morgan, a South African, and Patel, born in Islington, London, resisted the Warwickshire spinners for 21 overs and, on a slow pitch offering grudging turn, showed what might have been achieved with greater experience higher in the order. Probably the greatest blow to Oxford was that Mark Wagh, their captain and sole surviving Blue, was out in the first over in each innings. Though Allan Donald was absent, Warwickshire had, in Welch and Brown, two sharp, aggressive seam bowlers and the university batsmen needed Wagh, who as a Warwickshire second XI player knows their bowling well, to show them how to cope.

From the Oxford performance in the field on Thursday, when Patel took his hat-trick and they reduced Warwickshire to 174 for seven

at one stage, they should have no qualms about their seam bowling. For the moment, however, the batting is a different matter. In conditions in which Durham, Hampshire and Yorkshire, their three previous opponents, averaged 108 runs a wicket, with eight men scoring hundreds, Oxford managed only four fifties. Wagh, not helped by making only 54 runs in five innings himself, is adamant that the top-order batting contains "plenty of potential".

To translate it into runs and bolster confidence, Byrne, the No.4, and the two left-handers, Charlie Lightfoot and James Fulton, who all have obvious promise, have to learn to occupy the crease. Byrne, first out yesterday, fell to a fine catch by Ostler low at second slip off a ball he had to play, but Fulton wasted 40 minutes of reconnaissance with an impatient smear at Giles, the slow left-hander. In following his unbeaten 36 on Wednesday by making 11 not out, Averis, the No.10, made himself leader of the Oxford batting averages.

For Warwickshire, Phil Neale, their director of cricket, has enough confidence in Nick Knight's recently broken left forefinger to pencil him in to open in the Benson and Hedges Cup tie against Derbyshire on Monday. Piper, the wicketkeeper, who missed the Oxford game through injury, faces a fitness test on the morning of the match.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Surrey

DERBY (third day of four): Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 154 runs behind Surrey.

SURREY: First Innings
D.J. Bicknell c Rollins b Malcolm 4
M.A. Butler b DeFreitas 0
J.A. Shaw b Malcolm 12
G.F. Thorne b DeFreitas 32
N. Shahid b DeFreitas 32
A.J. Hollis c Rollins b Dean 22
C.G. Lewis c Harris b Malcolm 1
J.C. Selous b Malcolm 1
M.P. Backwell c Adams b Dean 74
A.J. Tudor c Adams b Dean 17
J.E. Benjamin not out
Extras (b 2, lb 0, w 2, nb 2) 15
Total (75.5 overs) 267

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-12, 3-16, 4-80, 5-117, 6-130, 7-134, 8-238, 9-265.
BOWLING: Malcolm 21-45-4, DeFreitas 16-4-53, Harris 16-3-73, Dean 12-5-4, 21-3, Clarke 10-1-14.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings
A.S. Rollins c Lewis b M.P. Backwell 0
G.A. Khan not out 35
C.J. Adams b M.P. Backwell 14
G.M. Jones not out 36
Extras (b 10, lb 18) 28
Total (2 wickets, 26 overs) 113

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-24.
BOWLING: M.P. Backwell 8-1-36-2, Lewis 4-0-25-1, Tudor 2-0-20-1, Hollis 3-0-12-0, Benjamin 5-3-6-0, Salesbury 2-1-2-0.

Bonus points: Derbyshire 4 Surrey 2
Umpires: A. Jones and B. Dudson

Nottinghamshire v Lancashire

HARTLEPOOL (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 82 runs behind Lancashire.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings 170 (C.M. Taylor 54, A. Walker 7 for 56).
Lancashire: First Innings 88 (P.R. Pollard c Belling b Nilsen 5, R.T. Robinson not out 30, G.F. Archer b Belling 20, M.N. Bowen not out 20, Extras (b 2, lb 2) 4, Total (2 wickets, 26 overs) 88.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-40.
BOWLING: Brown 8-27-0, Nilsen 7-0-5-1, Walker 5-2-22-0, Belling 5-3-2-1, Boon 1-1-0-0.

Derbyshire v Surrey
J.B. Lewis b Dean 26
P.D. Collingsworth b Frank 20
G.F. Thorne c Rollins b Dean 37
N.J. Shahid b Dean 52
C. Selous c Rollins b Dean 58
M.P. Backwell not out 26
J.E. Benjamin not out 11
Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 2, nb 10) 35
Total 331

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-66, 3-70, 4-205, 5-265, 6-281, 7-311, 8-314, 9-330.
BOWLING: Harris 22-5-81-1, Frank 25-2-73-2, Dean 23-6-52-1, Taylor 22-8-30-3, Bates 20-5-53-1.

Bonus points: Derbyshire 4 Nottinghamshire 4
Umpires: R. Julian and J. Steele

Gloucestershire v Hampshire

BRISTOL (third day of four): Hampshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 41 runs behind Gloucestershire.

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 316 (S.D. Udal 58, R.A. Smith 52, A.M. Smith 4 for 61).
Gloucestershire: First Innings 285 (J.S. Lacey b Smith 9, M.L. Hayden c Ball b Smith 0, V.P. Stephenson c Hancock b Ball 0, R.A. Smith not out 20, W.S. Kempall not out 20, Extras (b 11, lb 1, w 2, nb 12) 46, Total (15 wickets, 40 overs) 403.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-12, 3-21.
BOWLING: Smith 6-1-9-2, Lawrence 5-2-13-0, Young 6-3-11-0, Ball 6-2-1-1.

Gloucestershire: First Innings
A.J. Wright b Masefield 34
J.J. Turner c Lacey b Rendshaw 12
R.J. Culliford b Rendshaw 49
M.A. Khan c Keesh b Connor 42
N. Shahid b Stephenson 73
M.W. Alleyne b Connor 66
Z.C. Russell b Stephenson 62
H.C. Hancock c Sub b Connor 25
M.C. Ball b Stephenson 29
A.M. Smith not out 18
D.I. Lawrence b Stephenson 9
Extras (b 2, lb 6, w 6, nb 9) 42
Total 403

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-72, 3-151, 4-175, 5-273, 6-331, 7-341, 8-366, 9-401.
BOWLING: Connor 28-4-93-3, Rendshaw 25-2-73-2, Masefield 20-2-61-1, Udal 19-2-58-0, Stephenson 23-1-31-4, Hayden 6-0-28-0.

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 8 Hampshire 5
Umpires: G.I. Burgess and R.A. White

Middlesex v Sussex

LORD'S (third day of four): Sussex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 297 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Middlesex.

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 490 for 9 dec (M.R. Ramprakash 145, K.R. Brown 144 not out, A.A. Khan 5 for 137).
Sussex: First Innings 197 (M.T.E. Petre c Tubb b Hewitt 10, K. Greenfield b Hewitt 11, N.R. Taylor c Brown b Hewitt 6, C.W.J. Athey not out 60, R.K. Rao b Johnson 10, V.C. Drakes c Gatting b Hewitt 10, K. Newell b Johnson 15, P.W. Moores c Wicket b Kallis 17, J.W. Jones c Kallis b Johnson 15, A.A. Khan c Fraser 29, M.A. Robinson c Kallis 18, Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 2, nb 12) 25, Total (80.3 overs) 167.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-25, 3-31, 4-54, 5-56, 6-74, 7-105, 8-140, 9-187.
BOWLING: Fraser 19-5-23-1, Hewitt 17-4-60-1, Johnson 14-1-53-3, Kallis 10-3-5-16-2.

Second Innings
M.T.E. Petre not out 2
K. Greenfield not out 0
Extras (b 2, lb 2) 4
Total (no wicket) 6

Bonus points: Middlesex 8 Sussex 2
Umpires: V.A. Holder and J.H. Hampshire

Northamptonshire v Somerset

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are one run behind Somerset.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 185 (K.M. Curran 73, A.R. Caddick 6 for 68).
Somerset: First Innings 185 (M.R. Montgomerie not out 33, M.B. Loye c Kerr b Shaw 10, R.J. Bailey b Shaw 10, K.M. Curran c Caddick 18, A.I. Pennington not out 26, Extras (b 4, lb 4, nb 2) 10, Total (6 wickets, 104 overs) 104.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-36, 3-65.
BOWLING: Caddick 13-1-61-1, Shaw 6-2-8-1, Rose 6-3-9-1, Ahmed 4-3-9-0, Kerr 4-1-10-0.

SOMERSET: First Innings
M.N. Lathwell c Montgomerie 5
M.E. Trescott c Caddick b Montgomerie 4
P.D. Bowler c Bailey b Montgomerie 15
J.D. Kerr b Montgomerie 16
A.R. Caddick b Shaw 16
P.C.L. Holloway b Shaw 16
M. Burns c Loye b Shaw 8
R.J. Turner b Shaw 10
G.D. Rose not out 109
Extras (b 7, lb 14) 21
Total (76.4 overs) 290

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-36, 3-65.
BOWLING: Caddick 13-1-61-1, Shaw 6-2-8-1, Rose 6-3-9-1, Ahmed 4-3-9-0, Kerr 4-1-10-0.

Second Innings
M.R. Montgomerie not out 33
M.B. Loye c Kerr b Shaw 10
R.J. Bailey b Shaw 10
K.M. Curran c Caddick 18
A.I. Pennington not out 26
Extras (b 4, lb 4, nb 2) 10
Total (6 wickets, 104 overs) 104.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-36, 3-65.
BOWLING: Caddick 13-1-61-1, Shaw 6-2-8-1, Rose 6-3-9-1, Ahmed 4-3-9-0, Kerr 4-1-10-0.

Worcestershire v Leicestershire
Worcestershire (third day of four): Leicestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 47 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Worcestershire.

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 257 (K.R. Spring 55, A.D. Mullaly 4 for 88).
Leicestershire: First Innings 20 (D. Llewellyn c Shaw b Shepherd 20, J.J. Smith b Shepherd 0, A. Habbu c Rhodes b Haynes 0, V.J. Wells c Rhodes b Haynes 0, N.C. Johnson not out 0, J.M. Dain b Shaw 0, J.D. Mitchell not out 0, M.T. Brimicombe c Moody b Newport 0, Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 2, nb 2) 10, Total (4 wickets, 141 overs) 141.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-14, 3-14, 4-12.
BOWLING: Newport 11-6-30-1, Shepherd 9-1-30-0, Chapman 9-4-24-1, Haynes 11-1-43-2.

Bonus points: Worcestershire 6 Leicestershire 4
Umpires: J.W. Holder and K.E. Palmer

Yorkshire v Glamorgan

HEADINGLEY (third day of four): Glamorgan, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 163 runs ahead of Yorkshire.

GLAMORGAN: First Innings
S.P. James not out 109
N. Jones c Bailey b Silverwood 55
D. Gough c Bailey b Silverwood 44
M.P. Maynard c Ryan b Silverwood 3
P.A. Corey c Bailey b Gough 0
R.B. Court c Bailey b Gough 0
G.P. Boucher b Gough 0
A.D. Shaw b Gough 0
J.D. Mitchell c Bailey b Gough 0
Wagor Young b Gough 18
D.L. Wadman not out 12
Extras (b 12, lb 2, w 2, nb 14) 32
Total (102.4 overs) 338.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-86, 2-225, 3-230, 4-237, 5-250, 6-250, 7-259, 8-259, 9-285.
BOWLING: Gough 23-9-56-5, Silverwood 23-8-3-3, Hamilton 21-6-63-0, White 15-4-62-1, Vaughan 4-2-6-0, McGrath 2-0-0-0.

Bonus points: Glamorgan 4 Yorkshire 0
Umpires: B. Dudson and M.H. Reed

University matches
Cambridge University v Essex
FENNER'S (final day of three): Cambridge University beat Essex by an innings and 53 runs.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings 265 for 9 dec (A. Singh 124, E.T. Smith 72, D.R. Lake 5 for 52).
Essex: First Innings 212 (C. Hughes not out 43, W.J. Hogg b Wilson 1, D.J. Jones c Hyman b Andrew 16, A. Singh c Wilson b Andrew 6, J. Ralston c Hyman b Such 2, P.S. Jones c Hyman b Napper 4, M.W. Dawson c Such 0, E.T. Smith not out 9, Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 4) 10, Total (6 wickets, 51 overs) 212.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-21, 3-35, 4-80, 5-87, 6-97.
BOWLING: Andrew 5-1-16-1, Wilson 11-21-1, Napper 9-3-25-2, Such 9-5-8-2, Grayson 5-3-4-0, Hobbett 1-0-1-0.

Oxford University v Warwickshire
THE PARKS (final day of three): Warwickshire beat Oxford University by an innings and 53 runs.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings 129 (G. Welch 4 for 39).
Warwickshire: First Innings 185 (R.D. Hudson b Brown 1, M.A. Wagh b Welch 0, C.W. Morgan c Gough b Brown 1, A.P. Symcox b Gough b Brown 8, J.A. G. Fulton c Morgan b Gough 1, P.G. Morgan c Powell b Gough 21, C. Patel c Khan b Gough 25, I.G. Buchanan c Powell b Gough 13, J.M. Averts not out 11, M. Barnard c Frost b Gough 1, Extras (b 2

Impressive Herbert increases pressure on illustrious rivals in practice for Monaco Grand Prix

Ferrari may risk future on high-stakes gamble

FROM ROB HUGHES
IN MONTE CARLO

THE Monaco Grand Prix, always the maverick of the Formula One season, a throwback to racing round the houses, has raised the stakes this weekend.

By coincidence, it is the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Ferrari and the fiftieth Cannes Film Festival, so, by day, the glitterati dress down in jeans and T-shirts and peer into the Ferrari pits, wondering if tomorrow could revive the legend, and by night, in black bow ties and tuxedos, the wealthy slip away to Cannes.

Maybe they do not hear the whisper of the paddocks that Ferrari, not pleased by being upstaged by Johnny Herbert in his Sauber in unofficial practice, intend this morning to surprise everyone and bring out, ahead of schedule, the new engine from their Maranello factory. The heat is on and Michael Schumacher and Eddie Irvine may be propelled into the make-or-break session of their season. It is heady stuff, on top of the

fusion of wealth and power and the great lottery that, a year ago, reduced this race, rain-affected, to just three finishers out of 21 starters. Thus does official practice, the rush for pole position and the front of the grid, mean more on this tight and narrow circuit than anywhere else.

It is said that, if Ferrari finish high among the qualifiers today, there will be a great queue of cars coming up from Italy — 30,000 of them, equal to the total number of residents of Prince Rainier's principality.

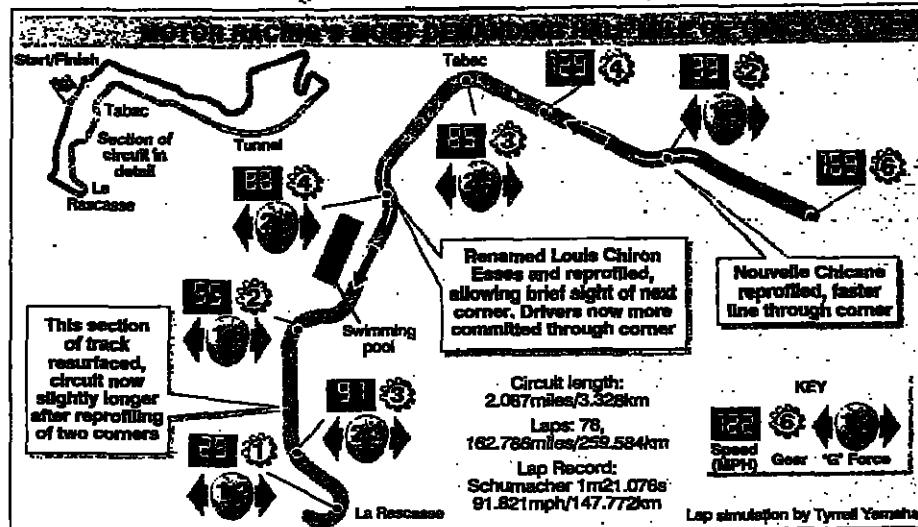
Viewing is "free", if you can find a perch, security extremely difficult and sometimes keeping the car on the track, where drivers boast of "kissing" the steel barriers wrapped around the streets, is itself an examination of nerve, experience and concentration. Aficionados claim that this is a slow and safe track and the fact that Lorenzo Bandini, exactly 30 years ago, was the last driver to pay the ultimate price of his life appears to verify that. However, the game of kissing the barriers, literally smudging them with



Ralf Schumacher youth

black tyre marks like lipstick, is more dangerous than the macho followers make it appear.

This is serious racing, an examination of the drivers on a track that never relents from imposing switchback speeds and gears and G-forces. There are 20 gear-changes in all, allegedly just three areas in which cars can safely overtake one another and, coming out



of the tunnel, arguably the most concentrated half-mile of road racing in the business.

Under the guidance of the FIA, the sport's governing body, that stretch of road has been resurfaced to try to level out some of the bumps. It begins with a 169mph short straight into the Nouvelle Chicane, new because it has been slightly smoothed out this season, ensuring that,

once they drop down to second gear, to 39mph, the drivers may, for once, be able to see what is in front of them rather than merely to guess.

Using information compiled by Tyrrell-Ford, one can then simulate the next seconds of a driver's priorities. Out of the chicane, accelerating to fourth gear and 129mph, the drivers head for Tabac Corner. This was where Juan-

Manuel Fangio, the greatest of them all, won his first grand prix, where, by noticing that the spectators had suddenly turned their heads towards the Williams team of Jacques Villeneuve and Heinz-Harald Frentzen pull away to dominate this season as last.

Yet it is the year of hope, one of almost alarming fresh-faced optimism. Ralf Schumacher, just 20, is on a learning curve.

pool complex. It, too, used to be taken "blind" by racers, who approached it at right angles and could not see a stalled car, oil on the track or some other deadly hazard. The new, slightly more driver-friendly curve, has been renamed Louis Chiron. Through that, down to second gear for the next bend, accelerating again to 91 mph, the cars sweep towards La Rascasse, a corner that reduces the driver's speed to a touch more than 29mph, reduces the gear shift to first gear and lowers the G-force to a momentarily tolerable 1.2.

In a year in which new tyre treads have increased downforce and when the drivers themselves predict the lap record could come down by as much as three seconds, the race is on to get a grip on the Formula One season before the Williams team of Jacques Villeneuve and Heinz-Harald Frentzen pull away to dominate this season as last.

Yet it is the year of hope, one of almost alarming fresh-faced optimism. Ralf Schumacher, just 20, is on a learning curve.

He talks to his older brother, Michael, the best driver on the grid. "If you are in the same job as your brother," Ralf Schumacher said, "then you seek every opportunity to meet him, it's normal." He thinks that family ties would not be affected should he actually get ahead of his brother when Michael most needs to put Ferrari back on the map.

The thoughts of inexperience. It is all around: Ralf Schumacher's Italian partner in the Jordan, Giancarlo Fisichella, has only a couple of years' more experience. The Stewart-Ford partnership, Rubens Barrichello and Jan Magnussen, are also riding on wings of youth.

This being a track dominated by know-how, Herbert, fourth and third in his past two attempts here, intends to use his knowledge, as do the Besetton duo of Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger. There is the precious knowledge of veterans who have been around Monaco, the place where 11 of the racers actually live, more than most. Therefore, they know the royal motto "Deo Juvante" — with God's help.

EQUESTRIANISM

Stark ghosts into lead after new test for dressage

By JENNY MACARTHUR

IAN STARK, riding Lady Harrington's Stanwick Ghost, has a slender 1.4pts lead over Robert Lemieux, of Canada, on Just An Ace at the end of the dressage phase of the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials.

Stark, 43, who won in 1986 and 1988 on Sir Wattie, produced an attractive, flowing test on the 11-year-old gelding, one of the few horses to cope with the flying changes in the new test, which was rewarded with high marks from each of the three judges.

Other good tests on a mostly dispiriting day of dressage came from Mary King, on Star Appeal, who are lying in seventh place and Chris Bartle, the British team trainer, who is in ninth place on Word Perfect. The joint overnight leaders on Thursday, David O'Connor, of the United States, on Custom Made, and Linda Algotsson, of Sweden, on Lafayett, have dropped to third.

Despite his lead, Stark has little room for complacency as the competition moves on to the influential speed and endurance phase today. Last year, Stark led after the cross country on the same horse but dropped to sixth place after the showjumping. In Atlanta, Stanwick Ghost fell coming out of the water. Stark, who describes the course as "one of the biggest and most impressive" he has seen, has the advantage of an early round on his first horse, Arakai, before tackling it with Stanwick Ghost.

Lemieux, a former British rider who took dual nationality in 1992, is pleased merely to be competing with Just An Ace. In 1991 he broke his collar-bone and Mark Todd was asked to ride the horse at Badminton. Todd finished fifth and the horse's owner, the late Mary Patrick, gave the horse to the New Zealander. Todd was fifth again in 1994 and fourth in 1995, after which Just An Ace returned to Lemieux. Injury prevented him from competing last year.

RESULTS

MITSUBISHI MOTORS TROPHY (after the dressage)
1. Stanwick Ghost (I Stark, GB) 46.2pts; 2. Just An Ace (R Lemieux, Can) 47.6; 3. equal, Lafayett (L Algotsson, Swe) and Custom Made (D O'Connor, USA) 48.6; 5. Archie Brown (P Blair, GB) 49.4; 6. Headley Seven (D Dick, GB) 49.6; 7. Star Appeal (M King, GB) 50.0; 8. Darlen Powers (A Hoy, Aus) 52.0; 9. Word Perfect (C Bartle, GB); 10. Cameron (X Labrosse, Fr) 52.4.

For most of the first half of the dressage yesterday it was difficult to believe that this was evening at its highest level. Many horses appeared unable to cope with the greater degree of collection required by the new test. Several horses, most notably Gary Parsonage's Magic Rogue and Karen Dixon's Too Smart, who both represented Britain in Atlanta, were so lit up they were virtually unable to perform the movements of the test.

Too Smart, in joint-73rd place, gave notice of his inten-

tions from the moment he entered the arena. The 11-year-old gelding chucked his head up in the air and proceeded to ignore all instructions from his rider. In an embarrassing afternoon for the Great Britain selectors, Chris Hunnabell and Mr Bootsie, another Olympic partnership, were also victims of Badminton's tense atmosphere, ending their unsettled test with a charge out of the arena.

Lemieux's arrival in the arena on Just An Ace at the beginning of the afternoon session came as something of a relief. The 15-year-old gelding, by Just A Monarch, produced a relaxed, obedient test which earned him a mark of 47.6. King then boosted British hopes with a good workmanlike performance on her Burghley winner, Star Appeal. The 12-year-old gelding is not an extravagant mover but what he lacks in flair he makes up for in accuracy. King is hoping that accuracy will extend to the cross country today.

Algotsson, having her first attempt around the course, has decided on unusual tactics for the formidable lake complex. "I'll just kick on and scream," she said.

Several top riders are hoping to disprove Hugh Thomaz's forecast that only a rider in the top three after the dressage will win. William Fox-Pitt is in fourteenth place on his Olympic horse, Cosmopolitan, and Blyth Tait, the Olympic champion, is joint-fifteenth.



Parsonage had an unhappy test on Magic Rogue, who could not settle to the task

SAILING

Owen takes second world title

By EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

BRUCE OWEN and his British crew on board the 12m Howlett-designed *Scoundrel* were yesterday celebrating a convincing win in the 35-metre world championship, jointly hosted by the Yacht Club de Cannes and the Yacht Club de France.

Owen, who sails out of Cowes, won the series with a race to spare. His finishing positions were fifth, third, first, seventh and first, plus a twelfth in the last race, which was sailed in winds of more than 35 knots and saw many retirements.

It was Owen's second world title in the class, one of the oldest still racing, with his previous success having come in New York in 1987.

For Owen, whose crew on *Scoundrel* was Jonathan Howe, Rob Lipsett, Guy Baron and Jonny Smallridge, this was a particularly satisfying victory after his recovery from a motorcycle accident last year that had threatened to end the 50-year-old's competitive sailing career.

After six days of the fifth leg of the BT Global Challenge, the fleet remains relatively bunched with 78 miles separating the leading yacht, *Commercial Union*, from the back-marker, *3Com*, as they head slowly north from Cape Town towards Boston.

So far what Chay Blyth, the race director, called the "dolphin, sunshine and gin and tonic leg" has produced some unspectacular downwind sailing.

Yesterday the overall leader, Mike Golding, on *Group 4*, was in second place with his nearest rival for overall honours, Simon Walker, on *Toshiba Wave Warrior*, just a few miles back in third.

Kettle too hot for Haining

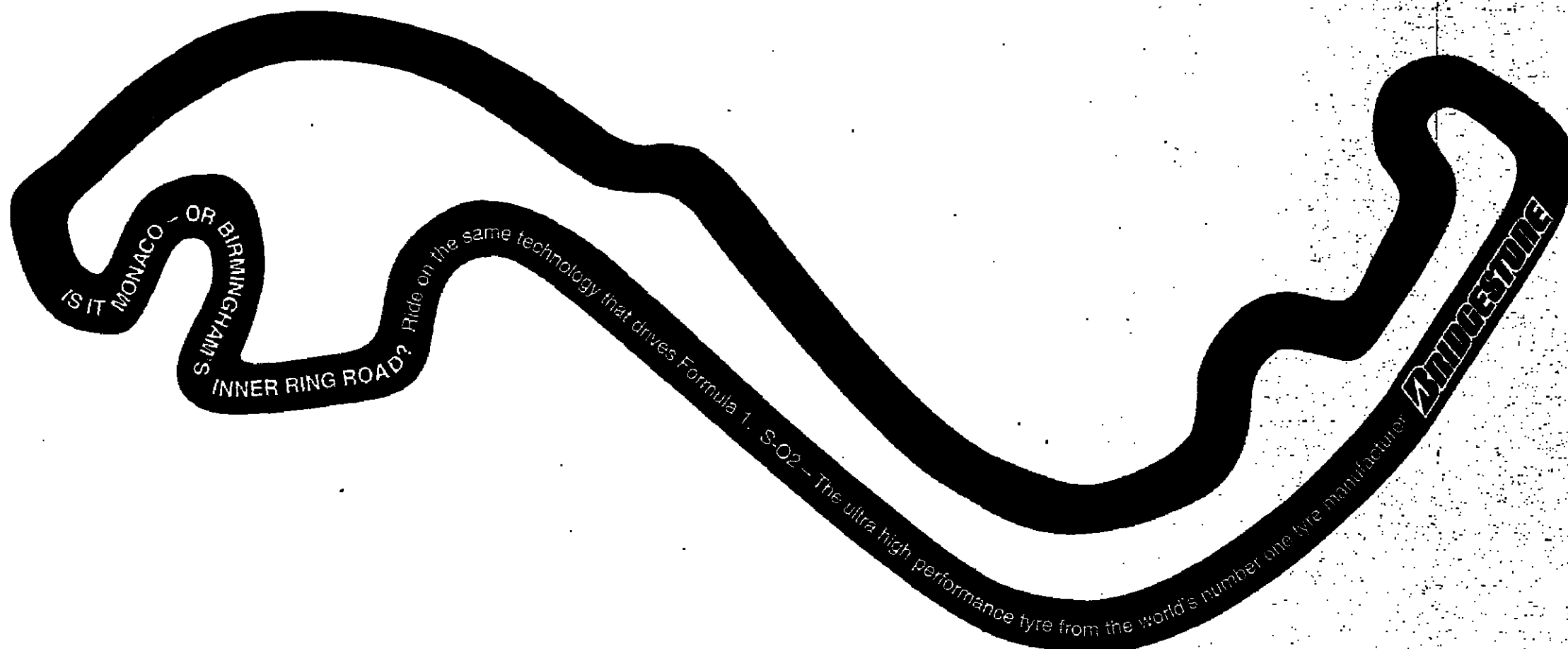
A CHAMPION gave way to youth yesterday when Martin Kettle, 25, added the Wingfield Bowls title to his Scullers Head title at his first attempt when Peter Haining, defending his title for the fourth time, dropped out after suffering a coughing fit (Mike Rosewell writes).

Kettle, who had moved level with Haining before his rival's misfortune, resisted a strong attack by David Pattullo, the Scottish champion, and eventually won by a margin of 2½ lengths. "It is the hardest race I've ever done," he said. "When Pattullo pushed me after Barnes, I was counting every stroke."

Judo: A frustrating defeat for Nicola Fairbrother, the 1992 Olympic silver medal-winner, in the lightweight section was a rare blemish on another successful day for Britons at the European championships in Ostend, Belgium, yesterday. Fairbrother still has the chance of securing third place when the repechage is completed tomorrow.

Bowls: Norma Shaw, the world indoor singles champion, from Thornaby, who was left out of the England team to compete in the Atlantic Rim outdoor championships in Llandrindod Wells in August, was yesterday named as England's singles representative at the European indoor championships in Jersey in November.

Tennis: Great Britain's women players earned promotion to Europe-Africa group one of the Fed Cup in Antalya, Turkey, yesterday. Having won their first four group matches this week, a 2-1 victory over Denmark in their final game took them out of the bottom division.



THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP'S FINAL WEEKEND

ARSENAL

When Derby played the Premiership game at Highbury, Sturridge, their striker, ran the Arsenal defence ragged and the home side were lucky to get off the hook. Their ageing rearguard, whatever statistics say, is always vulnerable to quick players who run at it. Pitiful home performances against Blackburn and Newcastle and clear creative weaknesses in midfield and on the wings will mean summer signings. Several faces on parade at the Baseball Ground may be missing come next season. BG

DERBY COUNTY

After 102 years at the Baseball Ground, Derby will leave for their new home at Pride Park after the game against Arsenal tomorrow. Paul McGrath will be saying farewell too, having helped Derby to avoid relegation in their first season in the Premiership. McGrath is being released by the club, although he intends to prolong his career elsewhere. "It would be nice if Paul could start and maybe come off early so we can all show our appreciation," Jim Smith, the manager, said. RH

ASTON VILLA

A win against Southampton tomorrow, or even a draw, will give Villa a return ticket to Europe next season. After their limp departure against Helsingborgs IF, of Sweden, in the first round of the UEFA Cup in September, Brian Little, the Villa manager, would love another bite of the continental cherry. It has been a strange campaign in many respects, with plenty of good, bad and indifferent displays at Villa Park, but all will be forgiven and forgotten if safe passage is secured. RK

EVERTON

There was relief at Goodison yesterday, as the club celebrated Premiership survival. Middlesbrough's draw at Blackburn means that Everton cannot go down, even if they lose against Chelsea tomorrow. "I'm relieved because we've got so many injuries, and I didn't want to throw any more kids into a game we had to win," David Watson, the caretaker manager, said. Watson was prepared to take responsibility for relegation, a magnanimous gesture given his brief tenancy. DM

BLACKBURN ROVERS

Tony Parkes can expect some reward for his remarkable achievement of keeping Blackburn in the Premiership. When he assumed control in November, it was supposed to be a two-week stint. Six months on, and he has completed the longest caretaker manager's spell in history. His prize will be the assistant manager's position under Roy Hodgson. "I'll be glad to step out of the spotlight. I didn't want the job when I took over, and I still don't now," Parkes said. DM

LEEDS UNITED

Only three times this century has a side in the top division scored fewer goals in a season than the 27 that Leeds present. All were relegated, which reflects creditably on the Leeds defence, but less so on the entertainment provided at Elland Road. The game tomorrow should, in theory, be an exciting exception to a dull rule because Middlesbrough require victory to avoid the drop. As for Leeds, even a draw could ensure a finish in the top half of the table. RH

CHELSEA

Ruud Gullik has warned his Chelsea players about taking their foot off the pedal before the FA Cup Final, but there is scant incentive for them to risk life and limb in so marginal a game as this. Everton themselves, having scratched to safety, will no longer be fuelled by desperation. Gianfranco Zola and his tricky hamstring will no doubt be saved for Wembley. This gives Gianluca Vialli another chance to prove he is no busted flush, so at least one player will have an incentive to shine. BG

LEICESTER CITY

Common sense prevailed when Emile Heskey was left out of the England squad for the World under-20 championships in Malaysia in the summer. Quick, powerful and direct, Heskey surprised defenders early in the season but has appeared jaded of late, and with justification. Martin O'Neill, the manager, has not had sufficient strength in his squad to rest his prize asset but now that survival is guaranteed, he has licence to experiment against Blackburn tomorrow. RH

COVENTRY CITY

Coventry require victory, nothing less, against Tottenham at White Hart Lane tomorrow to stand a chance of preserving their Premiership status. Even that might not be enough, should results elsewhere go against them, and renowned escapologists that they are, after 30 years in the top flight, matters appear grim. Gordon Strachan, player-manager, is still planning ahead, having made a couple of recent trips to France to assess the available talent. Sadly, it looks like "zu revoir", Gordon. RK

LIVERPOOL

Distress in the Liverpool dressing-room. "The coaching staff are angry, and there are maybe only two players they wouldn't sell if the money was right," one chastened player admitted. The two? McManaman and Fowler, of course. Beyond the Scouse pair, things have stagnated and even the players grumble that nothing has changed from last season. There will be changes this summer, though, the first being the departure of Collymore, a move reportedly designed to promote more harmony. DM

MANCHESTER UNITED

There will, according to Alex Ferguson, the manager, be few comings at Old Trafford during the summer, and even fewer goings. Eric Cantona will be staying for another year, at least, and Brian McClair, the one out-of-contract player, will be offered an extension next week. "I don't think there will be many signings. The squad we have got will be able to cope next season even if we don't add to it," Ferguson said, adding that he would be pleased with a break from "you lot" — the media. DM

MIDDLESBROUGH

Fabrizio Ravanelli is scheduled to fly in from Italy today after intensive treatment on hamstring and back injuries. The striker could well start against Leeds at Elland Road tomorrow, when he is expected to undergo a theatrical late fitness test on the pitch before kick-off. Whether or not Ravanelli plays against Leeds, he now seems certain to feature in the FA Cup Final against Chelsea next week. By then, though, Middlesbrough could well be relegated.

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Kenny Dalglish has finally secured the signing of Shay Given, the highly promising young Blackburn goalkeeper. The Ireland international will complete a move on June 1, with a tribunal deciding the fee. Dalglish, though, still has other things on his mind. His side could yet finish in the top half, and he is already looking to improve on that next season. "Manchester United are the best, but the gap is not wide, and there's no reason why we can't do it next year," he said. DM

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

If Manchester is the first city of football then Nottingham is the last. Forest matched their Trentside neighbours, Notts County, when they succumbed to relegation, and, given the expectation of a prompt return to the Premiership, Dave Bassett has undertaken arguably his biggest challenge in management by succeeding Stuart Pearce. At least he has the nucleus of a side to reverse the decline. Cooper, Crossley and Van Hooijdonk have pledged their futures, as has Pearce, in his playing capacity. RH

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

It has been a calamitous few days for Wednesday. Two defeats mean that they must rely on others to offer them a UEFA Cup opportunity — and also beat Liverpool into the bargain. David Pleat, the manager, is optimistic. "We have the opportunity and we will put up a good fight," he said. "If we can beat Liverpool, there's no saying that the teams above us will win their games." Pleat needs Aston Villa and Chelsea to drop points if Wednesday are to have a chance of finishing fifth. DM

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland players will collect individual bonuses of almost £40,000 each if they avoid relegation, the board having set aside £500,000 for this purpose. To be sure of collecting such a windfall the team must win at Wimbledon, but at least there is no lack of incentive. They will be cheered on by around 15,000 Wearside fans who are making the trip to Selhurst Park. A Wimbledon spokesman said: "We're expecting the biggest away following of the season and have made contingency plans."

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Last five
1 Manchester United	37	72	+30	WWDD
2 Liverpool	37	67	+25	WWDL
3 Newcastle	37	65	+28	WWDD
4 Arsenal	37	65	+28	WWDL
5 Aston Villa	37	68	+12	WLDD
6 Chelsea	37	56	+2	LLWD
7 Sheffield Wednesday	37	58	-1	DWL
8 Wimbledon	37	53	+2	WLDL
9 Tottenham	37	46	-8	LLDL
10 Derby	37	48	-11	DWLD
11 Leeds	37	45	-10	DLWL
12 Middlesbrough	37	44	-12	LLDL
13 Blackburn	37	42	-15	LDWL
14 West Ham	37	42	-7	LDWDL
15 Everton	37	42	-12	DWDL
16 Southampton	37	41	-5	DWDWL
17 Sunderland	37	40	-17	DLWL
18 Middlesbrough	37	38	-9	LLWD
19 Coventry	37	38	-17	WWDL
20 Nottingham Forest	37	34	-23	DDDL

† Middlesbrough deducted three points

SOUTHAMPTON

A draw at Villa Park tomorrow will be enough for Southampton, unbeaten in seven games, to retain their Premiership place. Graeme Souness, the manager, is already planning for next season by signing Kevin Davies, the Chesterfield forward for whom he had a million-pound bid rejected before the transfer deadline. The fee will be agreed by a tribunal. Less promising is the decision of Hampshire County Council to review planning permission already given for Southampton's new ground. NS

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

There will be little tea and sympathy at White Hart Lane tomorrow, when Coventry visit in desperate search of Premiership survival. "It's more important for them than us but we can't afford to worry about that," Andy Sinton, the Tottenham winger, said. "That's not being unkind or harsh. We've just got to look after ourselves." Darren Anderton will again be missing because of injury and will soon travel to Sweden to undergo "bio-mechanical assessment", whatever that is. RK

WEST HAM UNITED

Their safety confirmed, West Ham can go to Old Trafford and play a full part in Manchester United's celebrations tomorrow. Harry Redknapp, the manager, could not bring himself to tune in to the relegation denouement at Ewood Park on Thursday. "Frank Lampard [his assistant] listened to Clubtalk and relayed messages," Redknapp explained. "We were deep in trouble but we kept our nerve. I don't want to go through that again." It may be good to talk, but it is even better to survive. KP

WIMBLEDON

"We're proud of our achievements," was the verdict of Joe Kinnear, the manager, on Wimbledon's season. "We've won a lot of friends with our football, and we want to finish as high as we can by beating Sunderland." Having relegated Nottingham Forest last Saturday and ended Liverpool's title hopes on Tuesday, Wimbledon, with victory tomorrow in what is expected to be Oyvind Leonhardsen's last game before a £4.5 million transfer, could send Sunderland down. NS

Reporters: Brian Glanville, Russell Hampson, Richard Hobson, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pika, David Maddock. Statistician: Julian Deabourgh

ASTON VILLA v SOUTHAMPTON

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, 1-2, 2-1, 1-1, 0-2, 1-1, 3-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

ASTON VILLA (from): M. Oakes, S. Staunton, G. Southgate, A. Wright, A. Townsend, I. Taylor, M. Draper, S. Milosovic, D. Yorke, J. Joachim, F. Nelson, U. Ehiogu, L. Hendrie, G. Farrelly, R. Scimeca, S. Curcio, A. Rachet

SOUTHAMPTON (from): M. Taylor, J. Dodd, C. Lundelam, F. Benati, R. Dryden, J. Magilton, E. Berkovic, M. Oakley, R. Slater, M. Evans, E. Ostenslad, M. Lo Tisser, A. Nelson, N. Maddison, S. Basham, U. van Gobbel, D. Beasant

BLACKBURN ROVERS v LEICESTER CITY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-3, 0-0, 2-4, 4-1, 0-1, 3-0, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): I. Flowers, H. Bagg, G. Le Saux, J. Kenna, T. Shawwood, C. Hendry, G. Doris, K. Gallacher, L. Schuster, I. Pearce, G. Fillicroft, S. Ripley, P. Warhurst, S. Given, W. McGrady, P. Pedersen

LEICESTER CITY (from): K. Keller, S. Grayson, M. Whitlow, S. Walsh, M. Elliott, J. Watts, S. Prior, P. Karmark, C. Hill, F. Roling, S. Campbell, S. Wilson, N. Lennon, M. Tzetz, S. Guppy, S. Clandige, M. Robins, E. Heskey, I. Marshall, K. Poole

DERBY COUNTY v ARSENAL

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, 2-1, 1-0, 0-2, 1-1, 1-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from): M. Poom, J. Laurson, P. McGrath, C. Dally, G. Fowler, R. van der Laan, P. Trobridge, A. Assarovic, C. Powell, A. Ward, R. Williams, P. Wainwright, M. Sola, D. Powell, P. Simpson, D. Yates, M. Taylor

ARSENAL (from): D. Seaman, M. Keown, A. Adams, S. Bould, R. ParLOUR, P. Merson, P. Vieira, N. Winterburn, D. Platt, D. Bergkamp, S. Hughes, L. Dixon, S. Marshall, A. Anelka, P. Shaw, I. Selley, J. Lukic

EVERTON v CHELSEA

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 1-1, 0-1, 2-2, 2-1, 0-1, 4-2, 3-1, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

EVERTON (from): N. Coulthart, G. Sarrett, A. Finchall, D. Unsworth, T. Phelan, D. Watson, C. Short, D. Ferguson, G. Speed, G. Stuart, M. Ball, M. Branch, C. Thomson, N. Barry, R. Dunne, A. Grant

CHELSEA (from): K. Hitchcock, D. Petrescu, R. Di Matteo, F. Lebovici, C. Bulsey, G. Vialli, M. Hughes, E. Johnson, F. Sivola, S. Clarke, J. Morris, E. Newton, P. Hughes, F. Goudas, N. Colgan, M. Nichols

LEEDS UNITED v MIDDLESBROUGH

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 2-1, 1-1, 3-0, 1-1, 0-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEEDS UNITED (from): N. Martyn, G. Hall, G. Kelly, L. Radebe, C. Palmer, D. Wetherall, L. Sharpe, A. Donaghy, R. Wallace, M. Ford, L. Bowyer, I. Rush, D. Lilley, B. Deane, I. Hartie, M. Jackson, P. Evans, R. Molsenaar, P. Laurent, M. Beesley

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): B. Roberts, C. Fleming, N. Pearson, G. Festa, C. Blackmore, P. Stamp, R. Mustoe, Emerson, C. Hignett, Juninho, M. Beck, F. Ravanelli, V. Kinder, N. Cox, S. Vickers, D. Whyte

MANCHESTER UNITED v WEST HAM UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-3, 3-1, 2-0, 1-1, 2-1, 3-0, 1-0, 2-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P. Schmeichel, G. Neville, R. Johnson, D. May, P. Neville, K. Poborsky, D. Beckham, R. Keane, B. McClair, P. Scholes, A. Cole, O. G. Solskjaer, E. Cantona, R. van der Gouw

WEST HAM UNITED (from): I. Mikolajko, R. Hall, R. Ferdinand, S. Bile, S. Potts, M. Reeper, S. Lamas, H. Portinho, I. Bishop, M. Hughes, S. Lazdins, J. Harrison, P. Kesson, M. O'Connell

NEWCASTLE UNITED v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-2, 0-1, 0-1, 1-1, 2-1, 3-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P. Smicak, S. Watson, D. Peacock, P. Albert, J. Berezford, K. Gillespie, W. Barton, D. Baty, R. Elliott, A. Shearer, I. Ferdinand, F. Asprilla, S. Hoolahan, R. Lee, L. Clark

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): A. Pettit, D. Lytle, A. I. Hesland, C. Cooper, N. Jerlan, S. Chettle, S. Pearce, B. O'Neill, S. Gerrard, C. Allen, D. Saunders, P. van Hooijdonk, K. Campbell, D. Phillips, B. Roy, I. Moore

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v LIVERPOOL

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-1, 1-5, 2-2, 2-0, 0-1, 0-1, 3-1, 1-2, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K. Pressman, I. Nolan, D. Walker, D. Stefanovic, R. Humphreys, G. Whittingham, S. Carbone, P. Atherton, M. Parnbridge, A. Booth, D. Hirst, R. Barker, S. Nicol, G. Whittingham, G. Hyde, O. Donaldson, S. Oakes, M. Clarke, A. Potts

LIVERPOOL (from): D. James, S. T. Keane, N. Ruddock, M. Wright, S. Birmeyre, J. McAfee, J. Redknapp, S. McManaman, M. Thomas, S. Collymore, M. Owen, P. Berger, A. Warner

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v COVENTRY CITY

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 2-2, 1-1, 3-2, 2-2, 4-3, 0-2, 1-2, 1-3, 3-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): E. Baardson, R. Vega, S. Campbell, J. Scales, J. Edgar, S. Cam, P. Fox, J. Doozle, E. Sheringham, A. Sinton, D. Austin, P. McVeigh, S. Brown, N. Fern, J. Clapham, D. Hill, G. Brady

COVENTRY CITY (from): S. Ogrizovic, P. Teller, R. Shaw, P. Williams, D. Burrows, G. Strachan, N. Whelan, K. Richardson, G. McAllister, P. Ndlovu, D. Dublin, D. Huckerby, E. Jess, G. Green, A. Evtushov, W. Boland, M. Hall, J. Fish

WIMBLEDON v SUNDERLAND

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 2-2, 1-1, 1-1, 2-2, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

WIMBLEDON (from): N. Sullivan, K. Cunningham, A. Kimble, V. Jones, R. Earle, P. Fear, D. Holdsworth, M. Gayle, C. Perry, B. McAllister, N. Arley, J. Ewell, A. Reeves, D. Jupp, A. Clarke, P. Heald

SUNDERLAND (from): L. Perez, G. Hall, D. Ridsdill, M. Gray, R. Ord, L. Howey, D. Williams, P. Bracewell, K. Bell, C. Waddie, P. Stewart, N. Quinn, A. Rae, M. Smith, C. Woods, M. Bridges, D. Kelly, J. Eriksson

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Tomorrow

3pm: Sky Sports 1 Leeds United v Middlesbrough (Free)

3pm: Sky Sports 2 Manchester United v West Ham United (Free)

8.20pm: BBC1 Match of the Day (Free)

The official Internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at <http://www.facarl.com/>

FOOTBALL

Fight for survival reaches the point of no return

By DAVID MADDOCK

THE championship has been concluded already, but FA Carling Premiership football arrives at its annual denouement this weekend with plenty of plot still to be unravelled. On a day that television idiosyncratically dubs "Super Sunday", not least among those issues yet to be resolved is the exact state of the English game itself.

Last season, Manchester United required 82 points to secure the title. This time, 71 points sufficed. A year ago, Bolton Wanderers were relegated with 29 points and 38 points ensured survival. On Sunday, Middlesbrough, Coventry City, Sunderland and Southampton will attempt to avoid relegation knowing that 41 points may not save them.

There has been a distinct narrowing of the Premiership. The question is, does that mean quality has improved or declined?

The evidence of Middlesbrough's plight would suggest that English football has been enhanced by the opening of its borders to the hordes of foreign players entering these shores. Without players such

as Ravanelli, Juninho and Emerson within their ranks, surely they would have been already doomed by now. Nothing but victory will do for the North East club tomorrow and, even then, they need "Wimbledon to hold Sunderland if they are to stay up."

It is not as simple as that, of course, and events on Tyneside yesterday supported the theory that Middlesbrough will be relegated because their foreign players, or at least some of them, care little for the club and its traditions.

Ravanelli, the centre forward whose goals will surely be required to defeat Leeds United tomorrow, flew home to Italy yesterday, apparently to treat a hamstring injury. It did not go down well with his team-mates. Curtis Fleming said: "I just hope he flies back soon and isn't concentrating on just being fit for the Cup Final, because the Leeds match is much more important. He should be here having treatment."

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said: "I spoke to Ravanelli and he said he'd be on a plane on Saturday

morning. He went to Italy because he believes in the treatment there and he said he has trained for two days and told me he would definitely be playing at Elland Road."

Southampton and Coventry escaped relegation on goal difference last season and here they are again in the same position. In the argument surrounding quality, the suggestion is that things have got neither better nor worse.

Any glance at events at the top of the table tomorrow, however, surely provides ammunition for those who wish to demolish the ivory tower that has been the reputation of the English game for far too long now. Manchester United have won the championship with ridiculous ease while playing consistently below their best. They have conceded ten more goals this season than last and even Alex Ferguson, their manager, admits that the title has been won despite the distraction of the European Cup.

None of their challengers has remotely suggested they have the air of champions. Liverpool will secure second place above Newcastle United and Arsenal — and with it the second berth in the European Cup — if they defeat Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow, and yet they have been quite woeful for much of the year.

It is the intense struggle at the bottom of the table, however, that the majority of supporters will find most engrossing this weekend. There remains the distinct and ghastly possibility that Middlesbrough will reach both cup finals and be relegated.

Another damning statistic of English football shows that Leeds, Middlesbrough's opponents, have reached eleven places despite scoring 72 goals in 37 games. They have attained such heights, though, because they have not conceded a goal at Elland Road in the league since December. Southampton will be relegated if they lose 1-0 and Middlesbrough win by three clear goals. Sunderland are the next best-placed team at the bottom and a win at Wimbledon would ensure that their new stadium will experience Premiership football next season and that is a prospect that still appears plausible to Peter Reid, their manager.

Southampton and Middlesbrough, however, appear to possess a touch more class than their rivals and, thus, it could be that Sunderland and Coventry join Nottingham Forest on that awful journey into the Nationwide League first division.



Robson has learnt to live with, and now thrives on, the unrelenting pressure that comes with being coach of the biggest club in the world

Winning battle to stay sane in Spain

BOBBY ROBSON

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

By Oliver Holt

Bobby Robson is laughing, staring at a Spanish newspaper and at the faces gazing back at him from the front page. There is a picture of Josep Lluís Núñez, the Barcelona president, on one side, a picture of Lorenzo Sanz, the Real Madrid president, on the other. Above them both, the headline reads, "Open Fire".

It is the sheer madness of his life in the battle zone that seems to amuse the Barcelona coach: the headlines, the children clamouring around his car, the club flags fluttering from buses, the fact that every city-centre hotel is full to bursting this weekend. The descent into obsession in this elegant Catalan city has embraced him now.

When Robson first took charge of the club last summer, the lunacy beset him, but now it almost cradles him in its excitement and its frenzy.

In fact, yesterday, despite all the recent speculation that he was Everton-bound and that Louis van Gaal, the former Ajax coach, was due to replace him at the end of this season, Robson was on a high. Real Madrid, Barcelona's great "white rival", are the opponents at the Nou Camp tonight, the biggest Spanish match of the year — and things are hotting up.

If Barcelona can beat the

Spanish league leaders, they will cut Real's advantage to five points with five tricky games left to play. Then, next Wednesday, Robson's team will travel to Rotterdam to contest the Cup Winners' Cup final against Paris Saint-Germain. At the end of next month, they will contest the Spanish Cup final, too.

At the Nou Camp, the players are filtering into the changing-rooms for their final training session, while in the plush reception rooms that surround the coach's office, Robson is dancing about on the thick carpet, laughing again about absurdity.

It sounds bizarre, but there is even speculation now, after the announcement by Fabio Capello, the Real Madrid manager, that he is to leave at the end of the season, that Van Gaal may not go to Barcelona after all, but may be tempted by Real, leaving Robson unencumbered in Barcelona.

"It is impossible to tell what a coach's position is here in Spain," Robson said. "Here, it is a question of results. Whoever you are, if you lose two or three games on the trot, you will be on the plane home. Contracts do not mean a thing."

To illustrate his point, Robson stands up, sinks his feet into the carpet and begins stamping across the room to

character and not a horrible git would make that more likely. But there is no chance of that happening here.

"This is a place where you could have a headline, 'Barcelona Win 6-0 But Do Not Play Any Football', I could get angry about that, but I just dismiss it. That is criticism of such lunacy that it is not worth getting upset about."

Robson repeatedly returns to the theme of madness. He tells a story about one of his predecessors, Rinus Michels, talking to him soon after Robson had taken the Barcelona job and banging his head with his hands to signal that managing the biggest club in the world can make your head explode.

Robson's mind, though, is very much intact as he approaches 65. He rattles off facts at will. Barcelona have scored 91 goals in 36 league matches this season; they have played 14 games more than Real Madrid because of their success in Europe and in the Spanish Cup; they will have six Spanish players in their team tonight, compared with Madrid's three.

If there is a madness here, it is an intoxicating kind of fever, fed by huge doses of adrenalin, glamour and scrutiny, riddled with nervous tension but potentially more inspiring than ordinary life at

any other club. Robson has been linked with vacancies at Newcastle United, Everton and Celtic, but none has tempted him away. The future is uncertain, but the possibility of a second crack at the league title next year and competing in the Champions' League is too attractive to forsake.

"I would like to think it was 100 per cent that I would be here next season," Robson said. "I have a two-year contract after all. But I cannot say that I could in England, but this is different. There is talk of Louis van Gaal and they may see him as the future, but they say I have a contract and that I will stay."

It is a question of waiting until the end of the season and I know that other jobs might come and go. But we are in two final here. How can I even think of leaving when there is a chance I could be in the European Cup final next year?

"This club is phenomenal, the best squad of players I have ever had. If I was a young coach, I might be thinking, 'What is going to happen to me?' But I am fireproof in a way. I know that if I want to work somewhere I will be able to get a job. Not every coach can say that. That is why I can sleep at night."

It is a question of waiting until the end of the season and I know that other jobs might come and go. But we are in two final here. How can I even think of leaving when there is a chance I could be in the European Cup final next year?

"This club is phenomenal, the best squad of players I have ever had. If I was a young coach, I might be thinking, 'What is going to happen to me?' But I am fireproof in a way. I know that if I want to work somewhere I will be able to get a job. Not every coach can say that. That is why I can sleep at night."

RUGBY LEAGUE: HUGHES UNHAPPY AT CROSS-CODE ADVENTURES

Wigan hope to close union frontier

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WIGAN Warriors, stuck in mid-table in the Super League, are to discourage players from taking up rugby union contracts at the end of this season. Despite the short-term profit gained from loaning out players, the brief flirtation with union last year cost Wigan dear, with Va'anga Tuigamala being converted back to his original code and Henry Paul, Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly reporting back in weary condition after their back-to-back seasons.

Eric Hughes, the Wigan coach, said: "Both Connolly and Paul brought back injuries from playing union, while Tuigamala [now with Newcastle] and Robinson both looked jaded when they got back to Central Park. Players should decide which game

they are going to play. I appreciate that a great deal of money is involved, but there is more to consider than that." Connolly, who selected in the centre for the home match against London Broncos last night, might require corrective knee surgery for a condition aggravated at Harlequins, while neither Robinson nor Paul, who had missed five matches before his planned return last night, especially benefited from their short stint with Bath, other than in monetary terms.

Two months after Paul Koloi was signed by Wigan, ostensibly as a replacement for Tuigamala, the club is still awaiting a work permit for the Tongan after an application was submitted several weeks ago. "We'll just have to be patient," Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, said.

Paul Rowley, the Halifax Blue Sox and England hooker, who is being pursued by Wigan and Leeds Rhinos, said that he is prepared to go to court, unless the club declares him a free agent when his contract expires at the end of the year.

Wigan and Leeds have both had offers rejected for Rowley, 21, one of the best young hookers in the game. Not only is Rowley angry at the fee of £300,000 that Halifax are asking for him, but he also said that a new contract offer made to him by the club in no way reflected the value placed on him in the transfer market.

In a series of moves involving first-division clubs, Swinton Lions signed Jimmy Vekosio, a £45,000-listed Tongan centre, from Leigh Centurians, in exchange for

Steve Gibson and John Cunningham and a cash adjustment. Leigh have also signed Lathan Tavhai, a New Zealand scrum half, from Keighley Cougars.

Paul Dixon is returning to Huddersfield Giants, on a free transfer from Sheffield Eagles. Dixon, 34, the former Great Britain back-row forward, has signed a deal until the end of the season at the club where he began his career.

Warrington Wolves have re-signed Tony Thornley, their former wing, on loan from struggling Widnes Vikings. The bottom-placed first division club has failed in attempts to sign Darren Wright, from Sale rugby union club, and Andy Currier, who is on loan from Warrington at Workington Town.

Steve Gibson and John Cunningham and a cash adjustment. Leigh have also signed Lathan Tavhai, a New Zealand scrum half, from Keighley Cougars.

Paul Dixon is returning to Huddersfield Giants, on a free transfer from Sheffield Eagles. Dixon, 34, the former Great Britain back-row forward, has signed a deal until the end of the season at the club where he began his career.

Warrington Wolves have re-signed Tony Thornley, their former wing, on loan from struggling Widnes Vikings. The bottom-placed first division club has failed in attempts to sign Darren Wright, from Sale rugby union club, and Andy Currier, who is on loan from Warrington at Workington Town.

Warrington Wolves have re-signed Tony Thornley, their former wing, on loan from struggling Widnes Vikings. The bottom-placed first division club has failed in attempts to sign Darren Wright, from Sale rugby union club, and Andy Currier, who is on loan from Warrington at Workington Town.

Warrington Wolves have re-signed Tony Thornley, their former wing, on loan from struggling Widnes Vikings. The bottom-placed first division club has failed in attempts to sign Darren Wright, from Sale rugby union club, and Andy Currier, who is on loan from Warrington at Workington Town.

Bradford prepare to set record straight

EIGHT days on, the question at Odsal tomorrow night will be whether St Helens have shaken off their hangover from winning the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, or whether Bradford Bulls have erased the memory of losing a second successive final and can reverse the result at Wembley (Christopher Irvine writes).

Bradford easily beat St Helens at home last season, although it did not stop the inaugural Super League championship going to Knowsley Road. Maintaining their 100 per cent league record would take Bradford four points clear at the top; victory for St Helens would give them the lead on points difference.

According to Paul Loughlin, who knows better than anyone about handling Wembley defeats — he suffered his fifth final loss there this year — the

events of last Saturday were now "flushed from our system". Yet the physical scars linger, and with Robbie Paul and Sonny Nickle laid out for possibly six weeks, Bradford must cope without two key players.

Paul's damaged foot ligaments, which the Bulls trust can be repaired before the first round of world cup championship matches next month, present a more awkward question of inspiration and puts a big responsibility on Steve McNamara and Graeme Bradley, the other members of the brains trust in midfield. However, Jeff Wittenberg, Paul Anderson and Mike Forsshaw, who had an ill-fated stint in rugby union at Saracens, are available again after being cup-tied.

St Helens, still without Alan Hunte, expect to be unchanged for a match that

is essential to their chances of retaining the Super League. They were beaten 50-22 at Odsal last June, when the title looked to be headed Wigan's way. Less than a year on, there is little argument that St Helens and Bradford are in a league of their own.

The Odsal crowd will comfortably be the largest of the day and could exceed the 17,560 for the match against Wigan last season, Bradford's biggest for 23 years. Nevertheless, Bradford are not alone. Nine of the 12 Super League clubs have increased their attendances this season, including Salford Reds, who have doubled their support from the first division last year to more than 5,000, an average that should be boosted by the visit of Leeds Rhinos. Salford, unbeaten at the Willows for 15 months, retain the side that beat Wigan two weeks ago.

AUSTRALIAN RULES	
AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Collingwood 17-9 (11) vs North Melbourne 9-14 (8).	
BASEBALL	
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Houston 4 New York Yankees 3 (1st inning).	
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit 0 Kansas City 1 (1st inning).	
CYCLING	
DUNDEE: Four-day race. Third stage (Roubaix) won by Steve Hogg (GB).	
BASKETBALL	
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Phoenix Suns 107 Los Angeles Lakers 95 (1st quarter).	
BOXING	
MANSFIELD: World Boxing Organisation Inter-continental featherweight championship (12 rounds) won by Steve Hogg (GB) vs Steve Hogg (GB).	
CRICKET	
INDEPENDENCE CUP: New Zealand 10-0 Pakistan (1st day).	
FOOTBALL	
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Blackburn Rovers 1 Middlesbrough 1 (1st half).	
RUGBY LEAGUE	
Super League 12: Wigan 22 St Helens 10 (1st half).	
RUGBY UNION	
Super 12 tournament: Wigan 22 St Helens 10 (1st half).	
ICE HOCKEY	
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Czech Republic 4 Russia 1 (1st half).	
JUDO	
OSTEND: European championships (1st round) won by Steve Hogg (GB) vs Steve Hogg (GB).	
TENNIS	
HAMBURG: Men's tournament. Quarter-finals won by Steve Hogg (GB) vs Steve Hogg (GB).	



Free tickets
for children
to London's
Planetarium
reader offer 13

THE TIMES weekend

Fay Weldon
and her
remarkable
family saga
Ginny Dougary 15



SATURDAY MAY 10 1997

RK

A century has passed since Oscar Wilde's release from Reading Gaol. Peter Ackroyd recalls the final, broken years



Wilde with Lord Alfred Douglas, Naples, 1897: "He was no longer an artist. When he ceased to write, too, he lost any ability to dominate his own life. He sat in cheap cafés, and watched the people pass; he let the waters of the world close over his head"

The killing of Oscar

Oscar Wilde, with some justification, proclaimed himself to be a lord of language; but there came a time when he was no longer master of his own life. He went from poetry to prose. He went from prose to drama. And then he went to prison. The burden of those two sad years is to be found in that great dirge to fate, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*: he ended, as he had begun, with poetry. But if each man kills the thing he loves, then surely Oscar Wilde may be accused of killing himself. He left that gaol on May 19, a century ago, only to enter the prison of his own identity.

His first days of freedom were gay enough. He spoke of Dante, and of his desire to spend six months with the Jesuits: this retreat would have been more unhealthy than a prison cell and, fortunately, his pious request was denied. Instead, he travelled to Dieppe under the *nom de plume* of Sebastian Melmouthe, named after that great outcast of Gothic fiction known as Melmouthe the Wanderer. In fact, he did remain, to his contemporaries, something of a fictional monster. Even in France he was shunned by Sicker and cut by Beardsley. He was insulted by restaurant proprietors, and treated by passing English tourists as a cross between Jack the Ripper and the Anti-Christ. They even

spat at him. Like some pantomime harlequin, he was attacked by the clowns. In these early days, he told André Gide, the French man of letters, that "my life is like a work of art. An artist never starts the same thing twice". Yet he was not averse to repeating his old mistakes and, within a few months of his release from prison, he had returned to Lord Alfred Douglas ("Bosie"). He had been the cause of all Wilde's woe, and his father, Lord Queensberry, began the fatal process of trial and imprisonment by publicly accusing Wilde of being a

"sodomite" — by which no doubt he meant sodomite. Yet Douglas and Wilde were now reunited in their old circle of fire; he was considered by his friends to be "quite mad" in this but, as always, Wilde had a marvellous reply. "I quite agree that all men of genius are insane, but you forget that all sane people are idiots." The two men moved to Naples, where they wrote sonnets and chased boys. But they could never have remained together for long: it was part of the symmetry of Wilde's fate that he needed "Bosie" when the younger man no longer

needed him. His sonnets were not enough. The plight of Wilde's wife, Constance, has often been forgotten amid the splendour of his folly: she had been betrayed and humiliated by her husband, she had fled to Genoa with their two children in order to escape the stain of the scandal hovering about her house. But she never abandoned him or, indeed, cease to love him: she provided him with an allowance which, of course, he squandered. Constance her husband never met after his release: she died in April 1898 after an

operation on her spine, but there is no doubt that Wilde also helped to wield the knife. After returning from Naples to Paris, the city he had adopted as his own, by degrees Wilde became a solitary exile. He was endlessly susceptible to slights, eager for company but too ashamed to seek it. His conversation was prodigal and marvellous to the end, and so great was his gift that he did not care upon whom he bestowed it. He spoke to waiters and prostitutes, conjuring up words and images as dazzling as anything he had contrived in the drawing rooms of London. Yet he

could no longer write: whether out of fear, or indolence, he never chose to repeat his old success. He proclaimed that he had lost "joy" in writing, but it would also be true to say that he had lost his genius. He was free in the sense that his former triumphs had been forgotten, but he was no longer an artist. When he ceased to write, too, he lost any ability to dominate his own life. He sat in cheap cafés, and watched the people pass; he let the waters of the world close over his head. For a while he deserted the boulevards of Paris to travel south and spend three months with the notorious publisher and writer Frank Harris near Cannes, at Harris's own urgent invitation: it was a case of the unspeakable pursuing the

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING 25 GARDENING 46 PROPERTY 7-10 COUNTRY LIFE 11 FEATURES 14 HOME LIFE 15 TRAVEL 17-22 GAMES 25

"SCREAM KEEPS EVERY PART OF THE BODY BUSY: THE BRAIN TICKLED, THE HEART WARMED AND THE STOMACH TURNS SOMERSAULTS."

"INTELLIGENCE, WIT AND SOPHISTICATION."

DON'T ANSWER THE PHONE. DON'T OPEN THE DOOR. DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE.

THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED NEW THRILLER FROM WES CRAVEN

SCREAM

DAVID ARQUETTE NEVE CAMPBELL COURTNEY COX MATTHEW LILLARD ROSE MCGOWAN SKEET ULRICH AND DREW BARRYMORE

NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

VISIT THE SCREAM WEB SITE: WWW.SCREAMUK.COM CHECK LOCAL PRESS FOR DETAILS

Everybody has a weakness. With many people it is drink, or food, or clothes. With Tony Blair it seems to be ties: with his wife, shoes; with his children, Manchester United duvets. My own weakness is for neither ties nor shoes nor bedding, in all of which I have tastes most accurately described by the brutal word "hogstandard". My weakness is for anything half-aimed at my desire for intellectual self-improvement. I am actually not stupid. But in my quest to become less not-stupid, I behave like a fool. Falling for the idea that merely to possess something is immediately to gain the benefits it can potentially bestow is the most basic shopping error going.

As soon as I graduated in 1989, I decided for some reason that I

ought to take an A level in Mathematics. This was bizarre. I already had three A levels and I had just come into possession of a degree. I choose my words carefully, and partly because I felt I had done nothing really to earn that qualification. I decided I needed another one. I managed to convince myself that my education would not be complete until I had become more numerate. So I paid £200 to enrol at the Rapid Results Correspondence College. A while later, a large packet came in the post. The packet contained half a dozen beige-coloured exercise books full of sums.

Confidently, arrogantly, pencils sharpened, I opened the first exercise book. I had assumed I might run into trouble on about book five — and yet these sums on

SERIOUS SHOPPING SELF-IMPROVEMENT

page one of book one seemed very difficult indeed. Difficult as in impossible. I checked the cover to make sure it was book one. It was. After about three minutes of staring at these opening sums, I decided to try again later, when I was in a better frame of mind. I closed the book, never, inevitably, to reopen it.

That book, and the others, remained in a corner of the repulsive bedsit I then lived in for a year. When I moved to a flat, they came too. When I moved again, five years later, I threw them out. I still have little facility for mathematics beyond mental arithmetic, at which I am quite



ROBERT CRAMPTON

good. My quite good mental arithmetic in this case tells me that I wasted £200.

Around the same time, 1989, I decided to learn Spanish. I bought

a set of Linguaphone tapes, again for about £200. I cannot remember now where all these £200s were coming from — I had no income worth the name. I must have gone into debt. Tragic really, to run up debts on sums you can't do and tapes you can't understand. I would have been better off buying some nice ties, or shoes, though I would have drawn the line at a Manchester United duvet.

The equivalent for me now, calculating inflation and increased earnings, would be to spend about £2,000 on something that I then put in a corner of the room to accumulate dust — an idea which makes me shudder. But such was

my commitment to turning myself into renaissance man. I was also, I am sure, subconsciously trying to prolong my student existence and avoid earning a living — paradoxically by spending the money that I had deferred earning.

I still have the tapes in my cassette collection, along with the Buzzcocks and Siff Little Fingers and all the other stuff I don't play. There are seven Spanish tapes — six hardline and one soft introductory one. Sometimes I think, even now, before a long car or train journey, or when I am at a loose end in the evening, I should pop on that Spanish Linguaphone tape. I never do. I listened to the first five minutes of the first side of the supposedly-easy tape, once, in the spring of 1990. I cannot remember one word of it. I wonder now what

the Spanish is for "another stupendous waste of money".

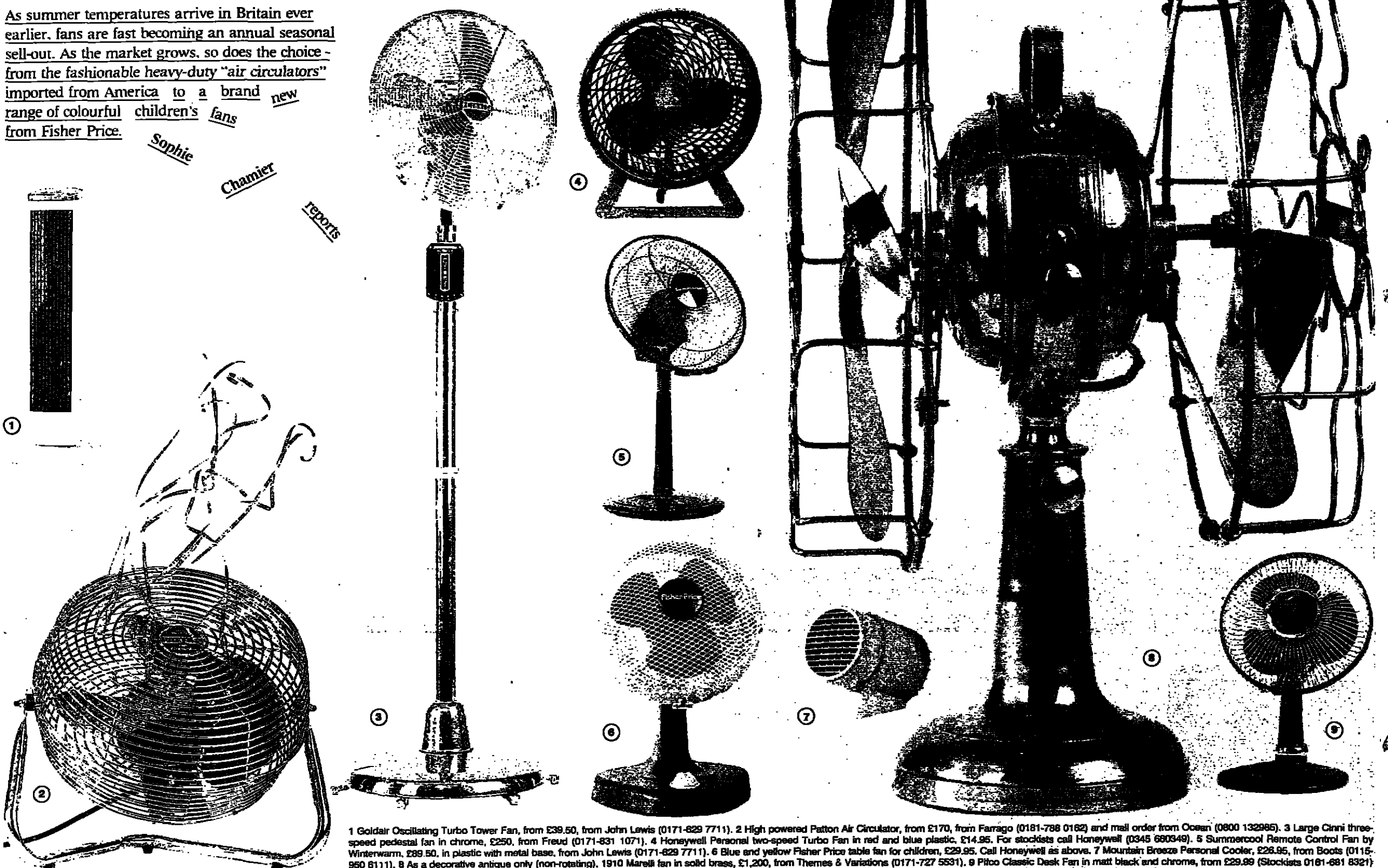
What else? Yes, like Garry Kasparov, I too play chess against a computer. Unlike him, I can barely operate the program, let alone beat it. My computer came in, again, at close on another £200.

Sometimes, I do succeed in turning the computer on — and it then beats me in about 20 moves at level one (there are eight). When it beats me, the computer says, in its robotic voice: "Why. Are. You. Still. So. Crap?" Humiliating to have a machine talk to you like that, especially if there are other people around to overhear. But it serves to spur me on to greater efforts, as I clamber about in the foothills, searching for that shopping shortcut to the intellectual heights.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DES JENSON

Wind instruments

As summer temperatures arrive in Britain ever earlier, fans are fast becoming an annual seasonal sell-out. As the market grows, so does the choice — from the fashionable heavy-duty "air circulators" imported from America to a brand new range of colourful children's fans from Fisher Price.



1 Goldair Oscillating Turbo Tower Fan, from £39.50, from John Lewis (0171-629 7711). 2 High powered Patton Air Circulator, from £170, from Ferrago (0181-788 0162) and mail order from Cowen (0800 132995). 3 Large Cinci three-speed pedestal fan in chrome, £250, from Freud (0171-831 1071). 4 Honeywell Personal two-speed Turbo Fan in red and blue plastic, £14.95. For stockists call Honeywell (0345 880649). 5 Summercool Remote Control Fan by Wintewarm, £89.50, in plastic with metal base, from John Lewis (0171-629 7711). 6 Blue and yellow Fisher Price table fan for children, £29.95. Call Honeywell as above. 7 Mountain Breeze Personal Cooler, £28.95, from Boots (0116-950 5111). 8 As a decorative antique only (non-rotating), 1910 Marelli fan in solid brass, £1,200, from Themes & Variations (0171-727 5531). 9 P800 Classic Desk Fan in matt black and chrome, from £29.99 (Stockists 0181-681 6321)

NORWAY

3 & 4 day FROM £69

Mini Cruises

MAY & JUNE SAILINGS

Color Line, Norway's largest ferry company, offer you the chance to experience the delights of Norway's Fjord Country on a spectacular Sea Voyage. Relax as your journey of almost 1,000 miles takes you to historic Bergen — gateway to the fjords. Sailing from Newcastle, M/S Color Viking, with its excellent bars and restaurants is your home for either a 3 or 4 day mini cruise from only £69 per person.

FULL BUFFET BREAKFASTS INCLUDED EACH MORNING

- All 2, 3 and 4 berth cabins with shower & toilet
- Scenic cruise along the spectacular Norwegian coastline
- Swimming pool & sauna
- Live entertainment every night
- 7 restaurants & bars
- Video cinema
- Tax free shop with special Duty Free offers
- Programme of daily excursions on board
- Charges will be made for the cinema and swimming pool access on board

A 3 DAY MINI CRUISE allows time in Bergen to take a stroll to the city centre and sample the unique Norwegian culture and medieval architecture.

Departures	May 19th, 26th, 31st, 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st	Adult	Child
Monday		£129	£64.50
Saturday		£129	£64

A 4 DAY MINI CRUISE provides an ideal opportunity to enjoy Bergen by night. M/S Color Viking is your hotel in Bergen for an overnight stay as you enjoy the varied nightlife and entertainment of Norway's second city. You also have a few hours in Bergen the following morning before your return sailing.

Departures	May 21st, 28th, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th	Adult	Child
Wednesday		£139	£69.50

Affordable NORWAY MAY TO SEPTEMBER SUMMER SAVERS Holidays to the magnificent fjord country at Affordable prices. Each holiday starts and finishes with a leisurely overnight North Sea crossing between Newcastle and Norway on M/S Color Viking.

Chalet Holidays £195 5 days from only

Hotel Holidays £199 5 days from only

CHILD REDUCTIONS ON ALL HOLIDAYS

OFFICE OPEN THIS WEEKEND 10AM-4PM

Color Line

TO BOOK OR TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE CALL COLOR LINE OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT

0191 296 1313

INTERNATIONAL FERRY TERMINAL, ROYAL QUAYS, NORTH SHIELDS, TYNE & WEAR, NE29 6EE.

Continued from page 1

irrepressible. A short stay in Switzerland proved fatal to Wilde's nerves, but on a subsequent visit to Rome he managed by good positioning to be blessed by the Pope on six separate occasions.

Forthright in spirit, as well as by temperament, but from conviction. By the autumn of 1900 he had a forced reconciliation with his wallpaper, when he was confined to his bed. The cause of his illness, known to the wise as encephalitis meningitis, is not known. One of his more recent biographers, Richard Ellmann, has suggested that it was syphilis in origin. It is possible but no means certain. It is more likely that he died simply because he had enough of life, once he had exhausted it, and now it was taking his revenge.

In any event he retained his wit to the end, principally by refusing to obey his doctor's orders. He drank champagne and took opium, with liberal doses of chloral. Of course, he performed the principal function of an invalid by cheering up his visitors, but there were times when he was also amused. He told one of his closest friends, Reginald Turner, that "I dreamt I was supping with the dead". Turner replied, "My dear Oscar, you were probably the life and soul of the party." They became hysterical with laughter.

Only hours before his death Wilde was baptised into the Roman Catholic Church, on the perfectly sensible ground that the Anglican Church was reserved for the respectable. Then, on a cold afternoon at the end of November, he died. A few days later he was taken to an obscure grave, with the small group of mourners remembering, perhaps, lines from *The Importance of Being Earnest*: "He seems to have expressed a desire to be buried in Paris." "In Paris! I fear that hardly points to any

Attempts to turn Wilde into 'Saint Oscar' are ridiculous

very serious state of mind at the time."

Nine years later Wilde's body was removed to the cemetery of Père Lachaise, where Epstein's famous monument has over the years been covered with the kisses and affectionate greetings of the world.

Could Wilde have accomplished more during his three years of wandering? It is very doubtful. He had already announced that his life could not be "patched up" and, indeed, he seems to have taken a certain pleasure in fulfilling an unhappy destiny. He had been both criminal and martyr, and, therefore, the very model of a modern artist: deliberately or not, he turned his life into a form of allegory.

It is almost as if he had anticipated the extent of his fame, and was already living for the sake of posterity. Now he has been rehabilitated as an artist and as a man. Those who know only his plays, however, know only half of his genius; his prose works, in particular his fairy stories and critical essays, represent some of the finest work of the 19th century.

Wilde mastered every literary form. He brought comedy back to the English stage, primarily by mocking the absurdities of the English. He invented the prose poem for a modern audience, and transformed the practice of literary criticism. He also proclaimed a novel stance in doing so: he was always struck by the value of appearances, and so created a theory of the artist as performer and public figure.

He was in that sense a pioneer of the "modern movement" in art and letters, although he might not have enjoyed the

distinction. It sounds too much like a painful duty.

There may be the vaguest of reasons also to claim him for the cause of Irish nationalism, although he did once tell Yeats that the Irish were a race of brilliant failures.

Wilde's affection for his native land really only began after he had left it, but there is no doubt that in his art and life he was an Irishman consciously defying the standards of an alien race. It is difficult for any man of genius to be a fervent nationalist, however, and patriotism of that kind is fatal to any sense of humour.

It is equally unlikely that he would ever have wished to become a gay icon. He never represented anyone, or anything, other than himself. His genius lay in his uniqueness,

and his strength in his individuality. In this liberated age, he might even have derived great pleasure from posing as a heterosexual; as long as he remained artificial, he was content.

The attempt to transform him into "Saint Oscar" is, of course, ridiculous: it courts what he himself called "the supreme vice of shallowness", and he can be said to have warned his 20th-century admirers with the remark that "cheap editions of great men are absolutely detestable". As for the recent attempts to persuade the Home Office to "pardon" Wilde, it is the Home Office itself which needs forgiveness for imprisoning him in the first place.

It is important, in the end, to avoid burdening him with the sexual freedoms and moral sensitivities of the late 20th century. He was an enemy of earnestness in all its forms and, properly, should be given the last word:

"Art is the only serious thing in the world. And the artist is the only person who is never serious."

Selection Magimix

a unique range for serious cooks

A classic collection of kitchen ideas from France, Germany and Italy, built to professional standards to work better, and last longer. Shown here the Deep Fat Fryer in stainless steel with many professional features, including a 'cold zone' to keep oil clean longer (up to 30 fryings) avoiding any transfer of smell or taste. Uniquely easy to clean, just put it in the dishwasher. For more details on the range, write to: Magimix UK Ltd 115A High Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1AQ.

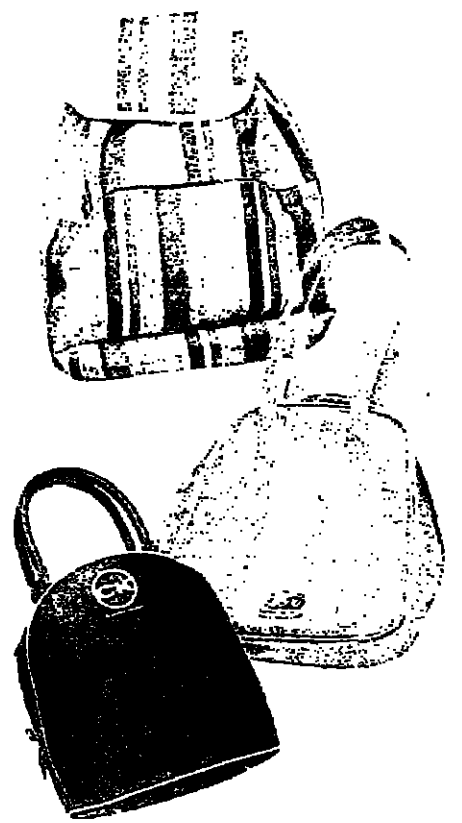
magimix

"The one... any chef will use because it makes it all so easy"

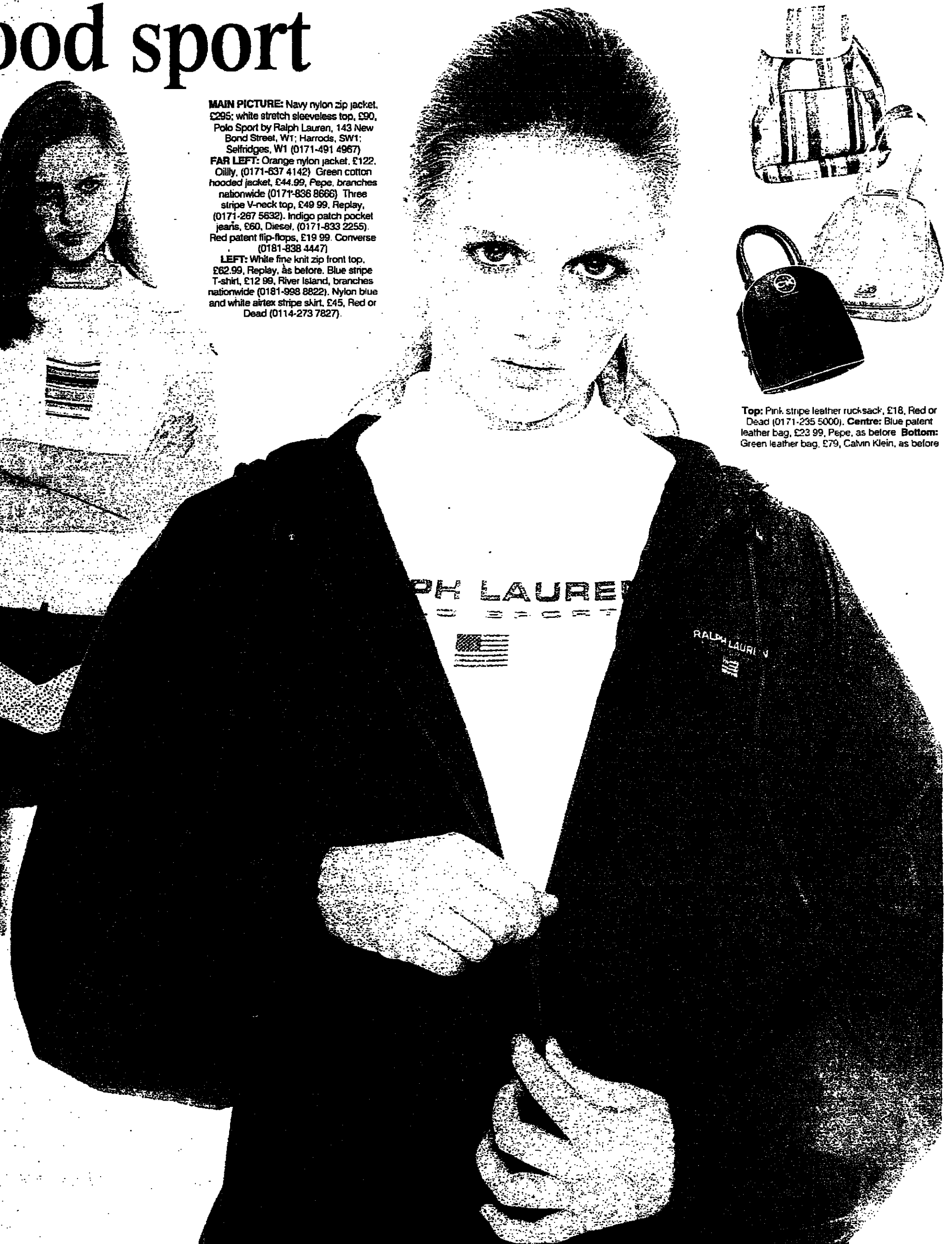
Britain's youth are going for a sporty look but they're not planning to break into a sweat, says **Heath Brown**

Be a good sport

MAIN PICTURE: Navy nylon zip jacket, £295; white stretch sleeveless top, £90, Polo Sport by Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, W1; Harrods, SW1; Selfridges, W1 (0171-491 4967).
FAR LEFT: Orange nylon jacket, £122, Oilly, (0171-637 4142). Green cotton hooded jacket, £44.99, Pepe, branches nationwide (0171-838 8666). Three stripe V-neck top, £49.99, Replay, (0171-287 5832). Indigo patch pocket jeans, £60, Diesel, (0171-833 2255). Red patent flip-flops, £19.99, Converse (0181-838 4447).
LEFT: White fine knit zip front top, £82.99, Replay, as before. Blue stripe T-shirt, £12.99, River Island, branches nationwide (0181-988 8822). Nylon blue and white airtex stripe skirt, £45, Red or Dead (0114-273 7827).

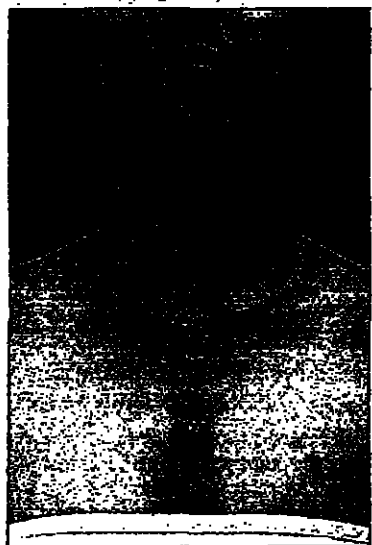


Top: Pink stripe leather rucksack, £18, Red or Dead (0171-235 5000). Centre: Blue patent leather bag, £23.99, Pepe, as before. Bottom: Green leather bag, £79, Calvin Klein, as before.



THREE OF A KIND

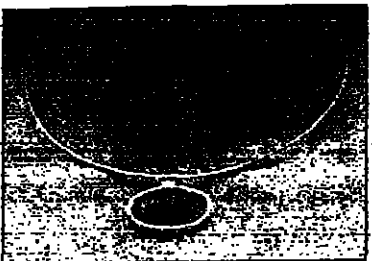
FINE wire collars are the torque of the town this summer. They emphasise a sexy neckline and are perfect worn with this season's strapless fashions. H.B.



Bronze bead choker by Vivian Walsh, £69.95, Liberty, Regent Street, W1 (00 353 187 07950).



Gold circle pendant choker, £10, House Of Fraser, branches nationwide (0171-963 2236).



Silver choker, £2.99, River Island, 124-126 Kensington High Street, W8 (0181-988 8822).

Sportswear influences on fashion have been with us since the Fifties. Originally, an American trend, clothes such as baseball jackets, sneakers and high school sweat-shirts came off the sports field and into the street to become the ultimate in casual clothing. Labels such as Adidas and Nike, once specifically for the sportsman, have become must-have brands for young fashion pundits since the introduction of fashion sportswear lines. Also proving to be the labels to wear are recognised designer names such as Ralph Lauren Polo, DKNY and Calvin Klein, who are all pushing their own "sports" ranges. Other labels such as Diesel and Replay have joined this trend and offer only "sportswear" that is pure fashion, worn by a crowd who would not dream of spotting these clothes for sport. Since the fitness boom in the Eighties, trends in sportswear have moved quickly, resulting in better quality fabrics as well as high-tech graphics and "go faster" styling with stripes and flashed logos. Nylon may be on the way

in couture but in this genre it is still acceptable along with Lycra and synthetics. Shell suits are a definite no-no but tight-fitting T-shirts, bold coloured blouses and fleeces all work well. For your feet, the original sneaker has come a long way since the Fifties. High-tech, state-of-the-art trainers have brought a new dimension to sports footwear. There are four looks to choose from: the classic white tennis shoe, such as the Green Flash from Dunlop; cushion-soled ultra-graphic multi-use trainers (Nike, Adidas and Diesel are current favourites); platform and wedge fashion trainers; and the new summer-cool slip-on mules and flip-flop thongs. The essential accessory is a sports bag — but in a bright colour, not black or white — with subtle flashed sports motifs on rucksacks, shoulder-bags and small holdalls.

Photographs by Richard Burns. Hair and make-up by Sally Kvalheim for Jo Hanford (0171-495 7774). Styling by Amanda Uppeal.



ABOVE: Chanel trainers, £315, Chanel, 26 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-235 6631). **RIGHT:** Top: white platform trainers, £29.99, Faith, branches nationwide (0800 289297). Centre: Navy and white star trainers, £39.99, Converse, Office, 57 Neal Street, WC2 (0181-838 4447). Bottom: Classic white trainers, £85, Polo Sport by Ralph Lauren, as before.

Our May Issue's Full Of Delicious Tips.

GOOD FOOD GALORE

Great Bank Holiday menus, classic Normandy dishes and irresistible golden-topped gratins are just some of over 80 mouth-watering recipes in our May issue.

GOOD FOOD ON AIR

We follow Sophie Grigson's new series, Taste of the Times; we've the start of MasterChef 1997; and we've a guide to your favourite food programmes.

GOOD FOOD AND DRINK ADVICE

Part Two of our wine course has more grape varieties and how to spot faults. And we steer you through food scares and conflicting advice on children's foods.

GOOD FOOD: NEVER GO WITHOUT IT

You'll find an 8-page guide to the best food in New York; a chance to win a dream kitchen; and more of Ainsley Harriot's collectable cook cards.

Stephen Anderton on the new biological accelerators that can halve the time it takes to make compost

Meet the ultimate rotter

Have you ever wondered what exactly goes on in a compost heap, all that luscious collapse and decay? You may not want to think about it, but others make it their commercial business to know what's what. And from this high-tech approach to rot come the new compost accelerators, which can halve the time it takes to produce well-rotted garden compost.

The traditional way to speed up composting was to add nitrogen, cheaply available in the form of sulphate of ammonia, sprinkled between the layers. Cheapest of all was peeing on it after *News at Ten*, in the last perambulation before locking up for the night. Well why not? It's no worse than cultivating great steaming heaps of horse manure.

A little lime helped, too, to stop things becoming too acidic for the bacteria to do their work. A thin (and I mean thin) sprinkling of soil between the layers was also thought to help, because it added to the general volume of bacteria present, though they were mostly those which live at soil temperature, rather than the 50C-60C desirable at the epicentre of a rampant compost heap.

The product Garotta has been around for years, an accelerator in powder form developed in the lime-and-nitrogen tradition, for sprinkling on to the growing heap. And, perhaps, the best accelerator of all has always been turning the heap — bringing the cooler, drier edges into the centre and introducing them to the bacterial frenzy at the core, like Christians to the lions. Bless them, those little bacteria do like their oxygen to thrive and rot things down. Deprive them of that, and the decay becomes anaerobic, a hundred times slower, and distinctly smelly.

In the past three years a new kind of compost accelerator has appeared, which works biologically. Instead of waiting for the microbes in a compost heap to multiply and begin the work of rotting the contents, you can now water on a latent cocktail of the most useful microbes. Biotol, the

Cardiff-based company which manufactures the accelerators, claims that there are not less than 50 million of the little darlings in every 10ml of concentrate. So its 500ml bottle contains... well you can work it out.

Microbes, the bacteria which cause decay of vegetable matter (cellulose), are bottled at the spore stage and kept dormant by being marketed in an aqueous solution so purified that they can receive no nutrition whatsoever. But release them into a compost heap and bingo, off they go.

Single-cell microbes consume cellulose by releasing enzymes, tiny molecules, which "unlock" the structure of the cellulose and break it down into absorbable sugars. So, to speed up the onset of microbial feeding and proliferation, the Biotol accelerators contain these enzymes in solution, as well as the dormant microbes which produce them. Then, even before the

microbes break dormancy, the enzymes are putting the meal on, and chopping up some of the cellulose for supper.

When the microbes wake up, after about 90 minutes in the heap, they have a hearty meal and get to work. Thereafter they can double in numbers every 20

minutes, creating a lot of heat. And every 10C increase in temperature roughly doubles microbial activity. Who'd be a lettuce leaf in a compost heap?

In a sense, there is nothing new about these accelerators. They are simply a massive local injection of the best natural decaying agents. There are no killer bugs here ready to take over the world, just common ones selectively applied. They are all saprophytic microbes, which means they live solely on dead material. There is no risk to live plants. When the heap is worked out, they die in the cooler temperatures of the soil. The enzymes, whose role as a catalyst is over, remain harmless as before.

Biotol makes three kinds of accelerator, and there are good reasons to be learnt from their differences. One is for grass clippings. This contains mi-



Stephen Anderton and his prized compost heap, which was produced with a "water on" concoction of living microbes

crobes which work at very high temperatures induced by neat grass clippings, which are high in nitrogen. There is no need ever to add nitrogen to composted grass clippings.

The second formulation is a general purpose accelerator, chosen to have a wide range of enzyme activity to break down all kinds of vegetable waste at slightly cooler temperatures.

The third type is for leaves, and is not bacterially based. The woody tissues of plants contain lignin, which microbes do not break down. On

the other hand, lignin can be digested by compounds found in the gut of termites, and by certain white rot fungi, such as the bracket fungi which sometimes attack our garden trees.

Biotol's leaf compost is a fungus-based accelerator, and works at lower temperatures. Such fungi hate living with high nitrogen levels, and the message here is to keep nitrogen away from leaf-only heaps, with or without Biotol. For the same reason, leaves

collected with a lawnmower and mixed with grass clippings will heat up and suppress the fungal activity which would lead fastest to leaf-mould. The leaf-and-grass mixture needs to be mixed into a hotter compost heap. But, of course, when the leaves have been shredded by a mower, they rot faster in a compost heap, because the enzymes do not have to penetrate the hard surface of the leaf.

This year, for those who prefer a granular compost accelerator, J. Arthur Bowers, which makes Garotta, has joined forces with Biotol to make New Biological Garotta. It contains all the goodies that were in Garotta, plus the bugs and the enzymes. It certainly

looks as if the future of compost acceleration is going to be biological. But however you compost, with or without accelerators, for optimum speed of decay you must always turn it regularly, to get some oxygen in there.

Last season I tried Biotol Compost Maker for Grass in my Green Joanna compost bin and, astonishingly, it is every last scrap of waste this household could produce, including all the lawn clippings of a drought season. It just never seemed to get full up.

● *New Biological Garotta costs £2.19 for a one kilo pack, £7.28 for six kilos. The three Biotol Compost Makers cost £5.49 for 500ml and are available from most garden centres.*

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q I have problems growing primulas and polyanthus on my balcony, although they grow well enough in the garden. After autumn planting they survive the winter then wilt and rot off at the neck. Are they too dry, or too wet? — Dr T. Coupland, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

A This sounds like brown core disease, *Phytophthora primulae*, which is a soil-borne disease. Slice open a root and look for the brown core to confirm. If take it there are no signs of vine weevil? Empty your tubs of soil and dead-plants and put them... well, not on the compost heap and not in the garden, unless it is big and you have primula-free places. Sterilise or replace the tubs and start again with fresh soil.

Q This spring I have lost three lavaterras. I did prune them all fairly heavily last autumn and wonder if this killed them. I noted that all the stems are hollow. Should I have pruned earlier or later, or less heavily? — J. Booth, Tiverton, Devon.

A Hard pruning of lavaterras is best left until the spring. But sometimes, especially in a windy garden, it pays to shorten the long wand of growth by 15in or so to reduce wind resistance and rocking. But do not cut 'till you are very old wood at that time. Given a milder climate, lavaterras choose to stay in some leaf through winter, and so severe pruning at a time when they cannot regrow must leave them weakened, through lack of chlorophyll, with which to make energy in winter. Lavaterras are rarely long-lived; five to six years is a good useful life.

Q For several years I have used pine cones to make a mulch to suppress weeds in my small front garden. The soil is heavy clay. The cones may be successful but the gardener disapproves. What do you think? — Miss M.R. Dawson, London SW20.

A Why shouldn't pine cones be just as good as bark mulch? They are certainly more ornamental, permit water to pass through when it rains and break down only very slowly, which is what is required of a water-retaining, weed-excluding mulch. If that is

why you mulch, then fine. If, on the other hand, you want to improve the soil it would be more useful to add a mulch of old compost — something of value, to help break up the clay. You might also want to dig compost into the top layer of soil to make the cultivation of smaller delicate plants easier. In a garden with a lot of regular lifting and replanting going on, mulches get in the way, and however careful you are you find yourself with soil and weed seeds on top of the mulch. Inevitably you then have to dig it in and reapply a fresh mulch. But under a permanent planting of, say, hybrid tea roses, well, a thick layer of pine cones might be perfect.

Q Pigeons are wrecking the planting in containers on my shady balcony. They have uprooted *Vincetoxicum* about six times, scattering soil — their revenge for me stopping them roosting. What can I do? — Mrs M.M. Humphries, London SE1.

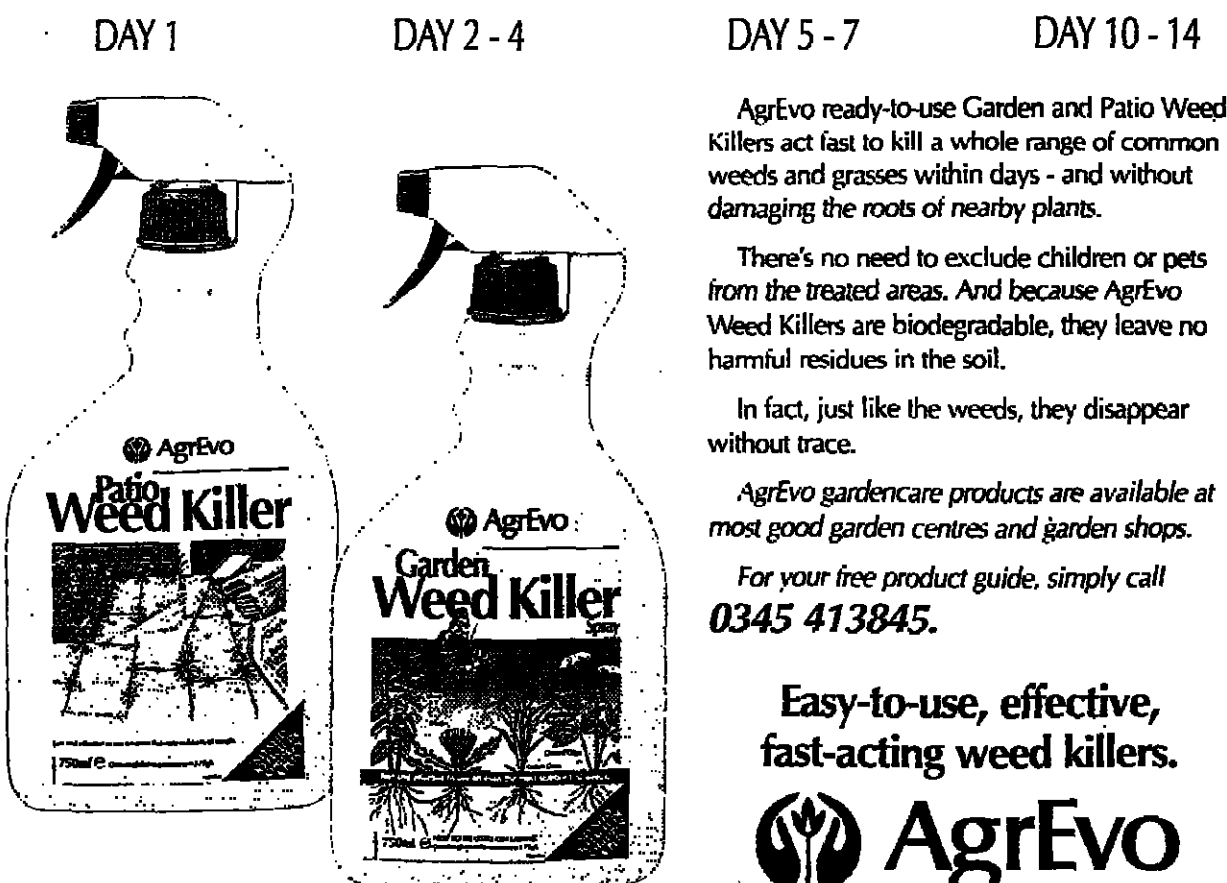
A There are a couple of things you might try. Your hand-watered containers, in shade, will offer a tempting place to look for moisture or grubs. If the problem continues, apply a thick gravel mulch and put chicken wire or plastic mesh over the plants until they are established. It may be just the buds that are tempting the pigeons.

Q Our beech hedge is 300 yards long and 8ft high. During summer it is infested with white beech aphids, making it sticky and unpleasant to cut. Is there a biologically friendly way of controlling these aphids? — Mrs D. Cairns, Faversham, Kent.

A There is no biological control for aphids which will work outdoors. Recommended chemical controls are dimethoate, pirimiphos-methyl or pirimicarb, applied when signs first appear in late spring. I have found that tar oil wash applied to the hedge in winter will bring regular infestations under control.

● *Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Peanington Street, London E1 9RN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

DEAD & GONE.



AgrEvo ready-to-use Garden and Patio Weed Killers act fast to kill a whole range of common weeds and grasses within days - and without damaging the roots of nearby plants.

There's no need to exclude children or pets from the treated areas. And because AgrEvo Weed Killers are biodegradable, they leave no harmful residues in the soil.

In fact, just like the weeds, they disappear without trace.

AgrEvo garden care products are available at most good garden centres and garden shops.

For your free product guide, simply call 0345 413845.

Easy-to-use, effective, fast-acting weed killers.



For larger areas, AgrEvo Garden Weed Killer is available as a concentrate in easy-to-measure, squeeze-and-pour bottles.

AgrEvo Garden and Patio Weed Killers contain glufosinate-ammonium. Read the label before you buy. Use pesticides safely.

Cruising can grow on you

Introducing *The Times* gardening cruise to Madeira, the Canaries and Portugal

In a dry spring, and with the prospect of a dry summer, don't you long for a climate blessed with gentle warmth and rains? An island somewhere? To a gardener, drought can be seriously distressing, and to this one the prospect of travelling with *The Times* Gardening Cruise in November, to Madeira, the Canaries and Portugal, is a pleasure indeed. Stephen Anderton writes.

At higher altitudes it is cool enough to grow daffodils, which need a period of winter cool to induce flowering, but it is also hot enough lower down the slopes to grow a vast range of exotics. Half close your eyes in the Blandy garden, Quinta do Palheiro, and you might be in Cornwall or west Cumbria.

Walls of camellias 20ft high flank the sides of drives, but next moment you are looking at South African "king" protea bushes flowering on the lawn, with blooms the size of small, rosy cabbages. Camellias grow hard and fast here, to the extent that you could prune them down with a chainsaw in old age, when they get rangy and top heavy.

Contrasts are everywhere: topiary in the English manner then, suddenly, the long-haired 6ft-tall dome of an Australian "black boy". Agapanthus are roadside weeds, and passion flowers of various species make themselves at home inside and outside gardens.

Gran Canaria and Tenerife are something else. They are totally unlike Britain, and I find them all the more exciting for that. In the Botanic Garden on Gran Canaria, fat cacti squat around like angry frogs. "Mother-in-law's chairs", the locals call them. Other more slender species writhe up against the sky, frilled with spines, as if the snake charmer had suddenly ceased to play. Who needs topiary when you have these.

The southern tip of Gran Canaria is rolling sand dunes, a chunk of the Sahara jutting out to sea. And just inland from here is Palmitos Park, an oasis of lush growth nestled in a moist gully under barren hills. Here is the full gamut of architectural plants — agaves, aloes, prickly pears playing host to cochineal beetles — and all pulled together by vibrantly coloured climbers, such as the gaudy, orange pyrostegia "fire vine" and powder-blue *Thunbergia grandiflora*.



Exotic plants and fruit proliferate in the conservatory at Estufa Fria in Lisbon

And palms, of course. The Canary Island palm, *Phoenix canariensis*, is everywhere. But there are so many other varieties, and once you begin to get your eye in, the differences are remarkable.

Some of the palms carry their leaves clasped around the upper part of the stem in a shining "crown shaft", making a complete change of colour and texture half way up the trunk. And the flowers, when they come, appear at this transitional point, hanging in a ring of yellow like a beaded grass skirt.

In Lisbon, the great lath-covered shade house at Estufa Fria has pineapples, and the Swiss cheese plants scramble everywhere in full phallic fruit.

But if nature triumphant is not your bag, respite can be found at the nearby

royal palace of Queluz, in formal parterres and in the princesses' boating canal, lined with delicate hand-painted tiles showing many a nymph and shepherd at pastoral play.

Last year was my first cruise as a guest lecturer for *The Times*, and how it can grow on you. Visiting gardens is always a pleasure, but sailing off into the sunset afterwards beats hacking off around the M25 any day. On days at sea, if you can bear to leave the sunbaked, Ashley Stephenson and I will be giving talks on the island gardens and on gardening. I might also have some more of those songs up my sleeve about lawnmowers, politically correct gardens and, of course, gardening cruises.

● *Full details of The Times Gardening Cruise, page 15.*

WEEKEND SATURDAY MAY 30 1997

Jane Owen starts a new series on people and the gardens they grow

Keep it in the family

Broadcaster Emma Freud's 20-month-old daughter, Scarlett, is familiar with acid house, hip-hop, techno and house, thanks to the family's courtyard garden, which is overlooked by 32 windows, four of them belonging to a recording studio. When Scarlett plays on the swing or in the sand pit, the music booms. But revenge loudspeakers are planned for this summer, when Miss Freud, the writer Richard (Four Weddings and a Funeral) Curtis, her partner, and Scarlett relax in the tightly planted walled garden.

Once it was a derelict-filled yard of the Baptist chapel but, since Miss Freud converted it, it has become a haven from the busy, smelly west London street market outside.

The garden is a family creation. Scarlett's interests dictate the wall decoration, while Mr. Curtis's mother, Glynnie Curtis, designed and built the garden from scratch three years ago. Scarlett's first word, tiger, is celebrated on one wall in a mural by Ashley Rye (unofficially adopted by Miss Freud's parents when he was "very young"), who adds an animal every time his niece expresses an interest — hence the menagerie of pigs, pigeons, cats, a cow and giraffe. These are joined by topiary box chickens and birds.

"Seven months after we moved in the garden looked like it had always been there," Miss Freud says. "Before there was nothing but concrete. Glynnie put it together, fast. During the summer we have every meal in the garden. We don't entertain a lot but we have had barbecues out here."

Miss Freud, whose second baby is due next month, used to grow vegetables at her home in Oxfordshire before beginning the family. "I haven't lifted a fork since I had my first baby," she says. "I think the same kind of nurturing and tenderness goes into gardening as into bringing up children. They come from the same emotional source and so you swap one for the other throughout your life."

But Miss Freud's vegetable career was not an outstanding

ME AND MY GARDEN: EMMA FREUD



One of the animal murals painted for Scarlett by Ashley Rye

success. Once, when she entered 18 varieties in a local produce show, she came bottom in every class, including the one in which she was the only entrant. She was told that the sole entry parsnip simply wasn't up to show standard.

In the London garden, Miss Freud is responsible for the flooring, attractive yellow-grey Chinese slate tiles which cost considerably less than some of the reconstituted pavers now available. Paving is an unusual choice for a parent of a small child; most attempt grass in even the most dismal corner when children arrive, but in Miss Freud's words, her daughter has "never spilt blood".

Miss Freud's other area of

garden responsibility is a long, raised bed opposite the front door to their chapel/house/studio in which all the herbs grow: lavender, basil, mint, rosemary, parsley, sorrel, sage, bay, dill... although these are used for cooking, this is a skill Miss Freud will reveal little about. "When Richard first met me he said that I was the worst cook he had ever come across."

The plants in the rest of the garden have to be Freud resistant. "I have never been good with flowers: they do not fire me up like vegetables. I don't have green fingers and regularly kill plants. I then have to take them to my mother so she can nurse them back from the dead," Miss Freud says.

alluding to yet another family member involved in the garden. Mrs. Curtis mentions, without rancour, that her lovingly planted camellia had been killed off. She has since replaced it with an almost indestructible mallow.

"I overplant everything so that if something doesn't survive something else can take its place, meaning there are no bare patches. I plant fast-growing things like a passion flower alongside a wisteria, which will eventually take over," says Mrs. Curtis, who modestly describes her gardening qualifications as "learning by experience during 45 years of married life in Australia, the tropics and here".

The beds around the courtyard walls, and the multitude of pots dotted around the terrace, are packed with roses, topiaryed box hedges, *Clematis alpina*, New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*), fuchsias, conifers and cyclamen, which have been chosen for similar qualities. Soil had to be imported from a garden centre.

Pale floor tiles and white painted walls around the courtyard give a brighter feel to this garden than seems possible with the high, terraced houses that cluster so close. But, in the narrow, enclosed corridor leading from the street, shade is inevitable all day, so Mrs. Curtis has planted an almost Victorian-style fernery and stumpery. Various ferns curl their fronds above ivy, great pale evergreen-leaved berries and the tiny-leaved, ground-covering business which scrambles across a couple of picturesque decaying tree stumps.

The planting is complex to give structure and colour throughout the year — Miss Freud's only request to Mrs. Curtis when they were planning the garden. Much of the planting is in pots, which can be moved about and replaced as needed, and all of it is interspersed with flares and candles, three of them sprouting out of an ivy "candelabra".

It is a rare garden that perfectly meets the needs of entertaining parents and toddler daughters.

Artist Ashley Rye can be contacted on 0181-789-2378



Emma Freud in the courtyard garden of her London home. "I have never been good with flowers"

HOMES & GARDENS

PROBABLY THE ONLY FEATURE YOU WON'T USE IS THE 5-YEAR WARRANTY.

Some Honda lawnmowers feature electric starting. Some are self-propelled.

And some have handlebars that adjust to suit the operator's height.

But almost all our lawnmowers have a 5-year warranty* — from the new 17" model to our lawnmowers.

It may sound generous. Until you remember that all our petrol-powered lawnmowers have Honda engines. So they share the same reliability that has made our cars world famous.

So Freephone 0800 378086 or clip the coupon for further details. And peace of mind that will last into the next century.

HONDA

THE ONLY LAWNMOWER THAT'S AS RELIABLE AS A HONDA CAR



*Subject to terms and conditions. Model featured 178425-02.

Please send me the latest Honda ride-on lawnmower brochure (please tick) and the name of my nearest dealer.

Name: _____ Tel No: _____ 372

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

POST TO: HONDA ADVERTISING SERVICES, PO BOX 89, LOWESTOFT NR32 2LG.

PARKLAND GARDEN FURNITURE

Two Chaise Longues with removable backrest. The set - £139 delivered. From our comfortable study range of Garden Furniture. Teak, painted and ready for use.

Order with cheque payable to the Company at Old School Yard, Connaught Street, Leeds, East Yorkshire DN14 5RL. Tel: 01434 707111 (sales to Derbyshire) Tel: 01434 502113

YORKSTONE FLAHS ALSO LIMESTONE

Good Quality Direct From Yorkshire. Delivered Nationwide. DOLMENS. Tel: 01274 872268 Fax: 01274 659953

Town Country Awnings



5 YEAR GUARANTEE on a wide range of awnings, canopies & free standing units.

LOW PRICES-HIGH QUALITY for patios, french windows, windows, balconies & all garden areas.

CALL 0345 023980 NOW FOR HELPFUL, FRIENDLY SERVICE & ADVICE. INTEREST FREE FINANCE AVAILABLE. 116-120 Week Street, Maidstone Kent ME14 1RE. 12 YEARS ON PERFECT MOWING.

The Button That Could

Wear the Aid-Call button and, if you should have an accident, press it to summon immediate assistance. It could be YOUR life saver.

AGE FREEPHONE 0800 772266

PERFECT LAWNS IN A COUPLE OF MOWS

The Allen Turf Trooper 2 triple mower. The electric start Briggs & Stratton engine accelerates from standstill to over two acres in under an hour, and the 60" (1500cm) cutting width offers ultimate performance even over undulating terrain.

The Allen Turf Trooper Commander. This unique 44" self-propelled rotary rider with three-bladed mower deck and 13 HP engine mows lawns or rougher areas, around and under bushes, hedges, fences and all those awkward areas where a conventional rider cannot reach.

ONLY £4250 + VAT for the Allen Turf Trooper 2. **ONLY £3595 + VAT** for the Allen Turf Trooper Commander. Please send us further information and details of our nearest dealer. **ALL YOUR GARDEN NEEDS**

ALTON GREENHOUSES

SPECIAL OFFERS

- finest Western Red Cedar
- craftsmen design and build
- 10 year frame guarantee
- free delivery

FOR DETAILS OF SPECIAL PRICES & BROCHURE PHONE FREE ON **0800 269850** or write to Alton Greenhouses (Dept. J), Freepost (LG6), Ferry, Campton, Leamington Spa CV33 0BN.

THE JOPASCO SHADE FINEST UMBRELLA UNDER THE SUN

For your FREE colour brochure on the UK's finest Shade Umbrellas contact: JOPASCO Ltd, Unit 1 • Trident Industrial Estate, Blackthorn Road • Colnbrook • Berkshire SL3 0AX. Trade enquiries welcome.

24 Hour Brochure Ordering: **01753 680858** Fax: 01753 680223

QUALITY UPVC BOX SASH WINDOWS

£172

Windows made to measure. Designed to last. For self assembly or by a professional fitter. Ready made windows available.

01737 226445

GOOD OPENINGS

Reigate, Surrey, RH2 9RD

SCATTER Clears Cats from your garden NIGHT AND DAY, EVERY DAY

Scatter transmits random bursts of ultrasound at a frequency that cats avoid. They'll turn away long before they expose themselves to its full impact, so that it works where fences or netting fail. Fully automatic — no sensors to go wrong. Highly reliable, fully weatherproofed miniature computer circuit.

Unique programme of computer-controlled ultrasound expels cats from lawns, flower beds, shrubberies, walls and patios. Not Affected by Weather.

SWITCH between low-voltage mains or battery operation at will. NO effect on birds or other pets. **UNAVAILABLE** to humans. Scatter is completely safe. Installed in minutes.

Try it for 90 days — 5 year guarantee.

FREEPHONE 0800 282824 FOR FREE BROCHURE

Scatter, Old Lion Court, High St, Warrington, Wiltshire SN8 1HQ. 01672 511139. e-mail: sales@scatter.wiltshire.co.uk. TRADE AND OVERSEAS enquiries welcomed.

HARD WATER The Scientific Solution

Incredible low-cost computer technology! Krystal is the simplest, most efficient answer to lime scale problems ever devised!

DISSOLVES existing lime scale. INHIBITS formation of new lime scale. PRESERVES health-giving natural substances in your water.

FREEPHONE 0800 590050 FOR FREE BROCHURE

Lines open 24 hours, 7 days. TREATS THE WHOLE HOUSE FOR LESS THAN £30. 90-DAY HOME TRIAL.

5 YEAR GUARANTEE

Krystal, 3 Old Ford Court, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN8 5AQ. Tel: 01672 564119. e-mail: sales@clearflow.wiltshire.co.uk. TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOMED. Customers in Ireland call 1800 875555 (24 hours).

Churchill's are the only stairlift company I trust, and I recommend them to you.

"When I needed to get about after my hip operation, Churchill's gave me the fastest service and the best value. If, like me, you don't want to move home, I wholeheartedly recommend them to you." *John Hind*

- ✓ Installation often within 3 days after FREE home consultation.
- ✓ Thousands of satisfied customers.
- ✓ All stair types catered for anywhere in Britain. 7 days a week.
- ✓ Peace of mind and full 12 months comprehensive warranty included.
- ✓ British Standards products.

Churchill's Stairlifts plc The Stairlift Experts

0800 371 982

Call now and ask for Christine, Clare or Joan. 7 DAYS A WEEK 9AM - 6PM.

Churchill's Stairlifts plc, FREEPOST WA 1905, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6BR.

Cybercentres

A new way to buy office equipment. For information & brochures, call 01453 67000.

Walk through history

■ **Penshurst Place, near Tonbridge, Kent (01892 870307)**

On B2176 from Tonbridge. Open daily to end Sept. then weekends in Oct. 11am-6pm. £4. children £2.75

The marriage of house and garden is unforgettable at Penshurst, where you feel you are walking through history. The main garden front overlooks a sunken formal garden which has been there in some shape or form since Tudor times. Great yew hedges provide the most powerful links, and they also provide the framework for this impressively large garden, making for a series of interlinking enclosures and views. Whichever way you choose to go, you will be led by paths back and forth.

There are always areas of particular interest to admire whenever you visit. If not now, then in the next week or two when the long peony border that has become one of Penshurst's most renowned features will be in flower, while the majestic herbaceous borders that run across the garden near the centre are burgeoning into leaf and there is a selection of early flowers.

The presence of water has been subtly extended by the present owners, Lord and Lady De L'Isle, who have continued the considerable renewal carried out by his father. Not only is the level of maintenance now exemplary, but Penshurst has the atmosphere of somewhere that is going to be a joy to visitors for another 600 years.

■ **Arduaine Garden, by Oban, Argyll (01852 200366)**

On A816 between Oban and Lochgilphead. Open daily all year, 9.30am-sunset. £2.30, children £1.50

Today and tomorrow Arduaine is open in aid of Scotland's Garden Scheme and it could hardly have

chosen a better time of year. The west coast of Scotland has a unique magic in May, with a freshness and light you find nowhere else in Britain. At Arduaine it brings a sparkle to the garden's renowned collections of ornamental trees and shrubs, begun by James Arthur Mackenzie and owing much to the work of the nurseryman Wright brothers from 1971 until 1991, when they gave it to the National Trust.

The Scottish pattern of conifer woodland and shelter belts, here mainly larch, protecting the introductions from the Himalayas is exemplified. The garden's highlight is the collection of rhododendrons, and the blue, poppies (meconopsis) are not to be missed.



Hare Hill: a place to explore

But my lasting picture is always the view from between hillside trees to the shimmering water beyond.

■ **Hare Hill, Over Alderley, near Macclesfield, Cheshire (01625 828981)**

Off B5087 between Prestbury and Alderley Edge. Open May 12 to June 1, daily 10am-5.30pm, then Weds, Thurs, Sat, Sun and Bank Hol Mors to end Oct. 10am-5.30pm. £2.50, children £1.25

Hare Hill is a place of fascination, an enormous walled garden built in the early 19th century surrounded by a woodland garden. Visit now to see the banks of rhododendrons and azaleas planted in the wood by its last owner, Colonel Charles Brocklehurst, who gave the property to the National Trust.

It is a marvellous place to walk, with a blend of native woodland and the enriching colours of the more recently added flowering shrubs and trees. A sense of detachment is increased when you come upon the walled garden with its brickwork and, at one end, an elegant white trellis pergola. Inside there is only lawn, giving an openness that is in contrast to the woodland paths and glades.

■ **Capt Howe, Chapel Stile, Great Langdale, Cumbria (01539 437685)**

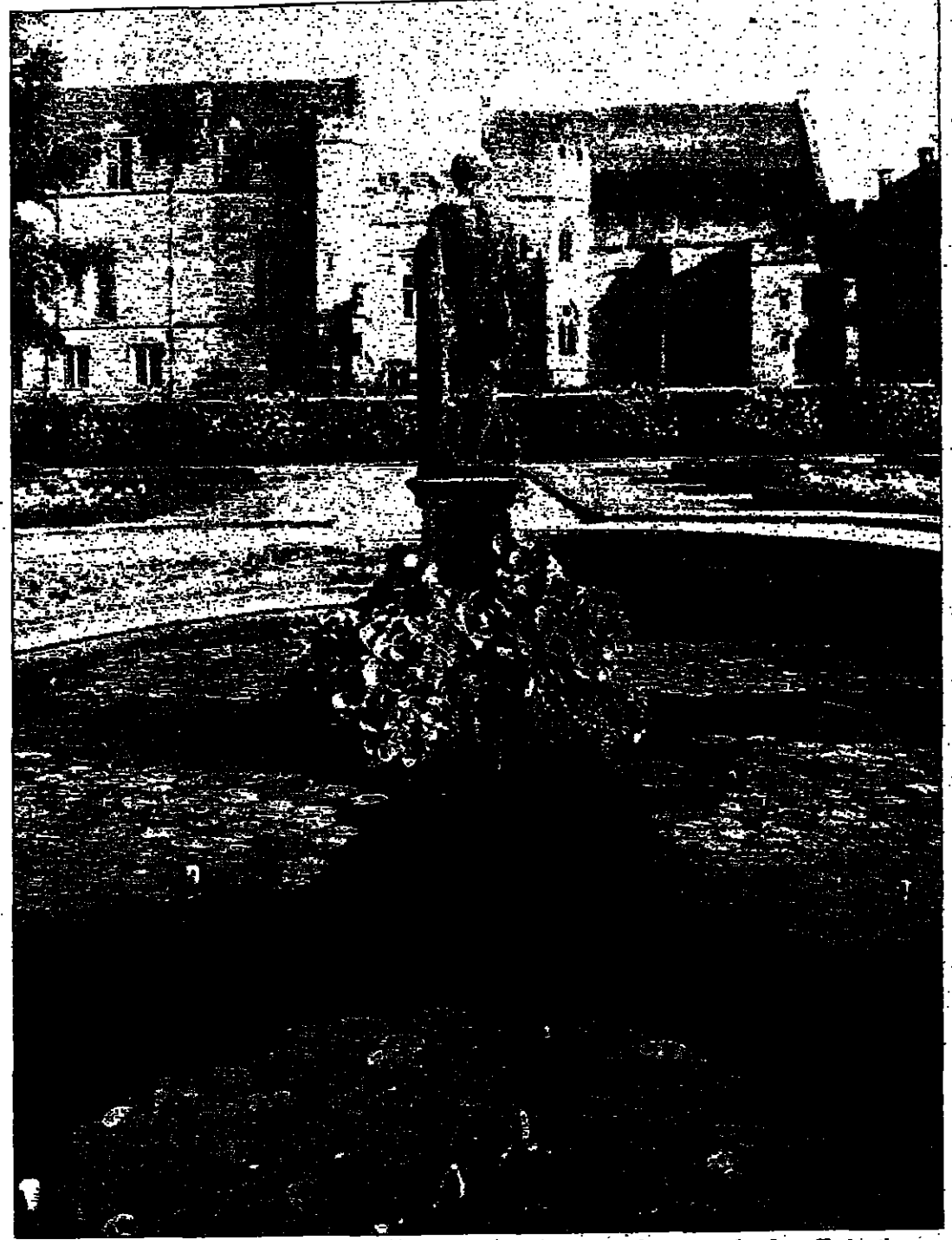
5m west of Ambleside via B5343 to Chapel Stile. Open Sat, Sun and Bank Hol Mors until end May, noon-5pm, or by appointment. £2, OAPs £1.50, children free

This is a garden for the visitor with a catholic taste in plants or, conversely, a specialist, because such is the range and quantity for a two-acre site that you are not likely to be disappointed.

The reliably damp Lake District climate encourages lush growth and, as you would expect on the sloping hillside, the garden is arranged informally with paths leading between banks of trees and flowering shrubs, or to the lawn which is a focal point with views to the Langdale Fells.

The leaves of acers are a superb feature at this time of year, as are the contrasting small-scale alpenines and dwarf conifers that fill an enormous array of troughs. It is obviously a personal garden, the work of the owner Professor Hazeldine, which adds to the visitor's sense of enjoyment.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE



The main garden front at Penshurst Place, Kent overlooks a sunken formal garden from Tudor times

WEEKEND TIPS

■ Prune bush peaches of dead wood and crossing branches, to encourage an open centre.

■ Sow pumpkins under glass in individual 3in pots.

■ Ornamental grasses and bamboos should be divided or transplanted as growth starts.

■ Sow seeds of biennials (sweet williams, Canterbury bells and wallflowers), to be grown on in summer and transferred to flowering position in autumn.

■ After flowering, reduce tangled growth on Clematis montana in positions where it cannot be allowed free rein.

■ Watch for outbreaks of aphids on the new shoots or roses. If natural predators do not wipe them out, be prepared to spray.

■ Trim back any straggly winter-flowering heathers after the last flowers have faded.

■ Liquid-feed potted lilies with tomato food.

HOMES & GARDENS

JUST ZAP!
YOUR GARAGE FREE
DOORS OPEN FITTING
LIMITED OFFER



Imagine the convenience and security of being able to open your garage doors without having to get out of your car.

- Made from tough, maintenance-free aluminium
- Durable store-enamelled finish
- Range of colours
- Automatic locking
- Tailor-made for a perfect fit
- Installed by Guardian's own craftsmen
- High Security

FOR A FREE BROCHURE RING 01484 461010/0171 581 4443

OR RETURN THE COUPON BELOW WITHOUT OBLIGATION

FREEPOST - SEND TODAY - NO STAMP REQUIRED

Post to: GUARDIAN GARAGE DOORS, FREEPOST, W10 1H, WINDERSFIELD, WINDSOR, SL.

NAME/SURNAME

TELEPHONE

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

GUARDIAN
The Property Protector

The Chisled Plant Stand
Ideal for plants, pots, baskets, hanging baskets, etc. Made from tough, maintenance-free aluminium. Available in a range of colours. Free delivery in London and surrounding areas. Call 0800 581054 for more information.

THE DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING Co. Dept. 1 The 15th Avenue, London SW15 2NU

Check list of products, prices and availability on our website: www.chisled.co.uk

A FREE no obligation written survey and quotation service.

AP COATINGS LTD DO NOT USE OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS SPECIAL RATES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.

FLAT ROOF PROBLEMS?
If your flat roof is leaking or you think it might be, you need to contact A.P. Coatings Ltd. We are the only company in the UK who offer this service.

Why? A.P. Coatings are the only company in the UK who offer this service.

Professional quality waterproofing for flat roofs, using the latest technology.

A system for waterproofing flat roofs, using the latest technology.

A.P. Coatings Ltd. Dept. 1, The 15th Avenue, London SW15 2NU

Check list of products, prices and availability on our website: www.apcoatings.co.uk

A FREE no obligation written survey and quotation service.

AP COATINGS LTD DO NOT USE OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS SPECIAL RATES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.

SALE 30% MORE PLANTS
ROSES SUPPLIED EXCLUSIVELY BY BRANLEY'S

ROSEWALL
ROSES SUPPLIED EXCLUSIVELY BY BRANLEY'S

TOUGH, HARDY, FAST GROWING, IMPENETRABLE FLOWERING & FRUITING HEDGING

Police Recommended Security

Only £9.65 PLUS P&P

ENOUGH FOR 25 FEET

Rich Magenta and Gold Rose Meets up to 3" across

Wonderfully fragrant

Security of Brick Wall

Protects plants from Winter Wind

Grows to 3-4m within 12 months

Grows well so matter how poor your soil

Coloured, fragrant, "ROSEWALL" readily reaches 7ft high, and is so easy to grow

Plant 10 to 20 in rows, or for a hedge

hedge plant in 2 parallel rows. Keeps annuals and strimmers out! Delicately pale

rich in vitamins "C" can be made from

of Rosewall. No complicated pruning - just clip to desired height.

JUST ARRIVING BRANLEY'S FAVORITE HEDGING

POST YOUR ORDER NOW

BRANLEY'S NURSERIES (T020)

301 BENFLEET ROAD - SOUTH BENFLEET - ESSEX

CALLERS WELCOME OPEN 10AM-5PM A WEEK

COUNTAX The Rider Trims and Stripes

1/2 acre in less than 30 minutes

The new Countax Rider produces the fine cut finish of a top quality walk-behind roller mower - but in a fraction of the time! It turns on a sixpence to negotiate flower beds and shrubs, and collects completely even in the wet. The Countax Rider is British made and part of Britain's best selling range of ride-on and tractor mowers - prices start from just £1495.

Send for 26 page brochure PHONE FREE 0500 279927

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

Countax, FREEPOST, St. Helens, Cheshire, CH44 7BR

POWERED BY **BRIDGES & STRUTTON**

FLAT ROOF PROBLEMS?
If your flat roof is leaking or you think it might be, you need to contact A.P. Coatings Ltd. We are the only company in the UK who offer this service.

Why? A.P. Coatings are the only company in the UK who offer this service.

Professional quality waterproofing for flat roofs, using the latest technology.

A system for waterproofing flat roofs, using the latest technology.

A.P. Coatings Ltd. Dept. 1, The 15th Avenue, London SW15 2NU

Check list of products, prices and availability on our website: www.apcoatings.co.uk

A FREE no obligation written survey and quotation service.

AP COATINGS LTD DO NOT USE OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS SPECIAL RATES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.

SALE 30% MORE PLANTS
ROSES SUPPLIED EXCLUSIVELY BY BRANLEY'S

ROSEWALL
ROSES SUPPLIED EXCLUSIVELY BY BRANLEY'S

TOUGH, HARDY, FAST GROWING, IMPENETRABLE FLOWERING & FRUITING HEDGING

Police Recommended Security

Only £9.65 PLUS P&P

ENOUGH FOR 25 FEET

Rich Magenta and Gold Rose Meets up to 3" across

Wonderfully fragrant

Security of Brick Wall

Protects plants from Winter Wind

Grows to 3-4m within 12 months

Grows well so matter how poor your soil

Coloured, fragrant, "ROSEWALL" readily reaches 7ft high, and is so easy to grow

Plant 10 to 20 in rows, or for a hedge

hedge plant in 2 parallel rows. Keeps annuals and strimmers out! Delicately pale

rich in vitamins "C" can be made from

of Rosewall. No complicated pruning - just clip to desired height.

JUST ARRIVING BRANLEY'S FAVORITE HEDGING

POST YOUR ORDER NOW

BRANLEY'S NURSERIES (T020)

301 BENFLEET ROAD - SOUTH BENFLEET - ESSEX

CALLERS WELCOME OPEN 10AM-5PM A WEEK

Majestic GRAFTED LILACS
SUPERB QUALITY Collection of Three Named Varieties ONLY £19.95 DELIVERY FREE

Lilacs are versatile shrubs and give a wonderful display of both flower and foliage. Grafted lilacs are named varieties that will give you pleasure for many years. Once planted they require very little attention.

A very special offer this season we are able to send you three of the finest varieties of Lilacs available.

Modern Lilacine. Highly scented with fully double white flowers.

Charles Jolly. Really dark purple red with double flowers.

Summer De Luxe. Red flowers that really stand out from the foliage.

£19.95 (inc. p&p) for all 3. Double pack of 10 for only £35.00.

Allow 14 to 21 days for delivery

TELEPHONE OUR 24 HOUR ORDER HOTLINE QUOTING DEPT TTY

01775 710996

Send Cheques/P.O.s to: DIRECT GARDEN SUPPLIES, (Dept TTY), P.O. Box 50, Spalding, Lincs PE11 3SX.

Post or Phone your order today

COMPOST BINS
YOU COULD SAY FOR BINS OF THIS CAPACITY

Quickly rotate kitchen and garden waste into rich organic compost - keeps the garden tidy too!

Standard 120 litre bin £15.00 inc. delivery

Large 240 litre bin £17.50 inc. delivery

King Size 480 litre bin £22.00 inc. delivery

Make the most of your garden waste. Quality is guaranteed, we are a member of the National Composting Council.

See our website at: www.agriframes.co.uk (Dept TTY)

25 Wood Hill Industries, Old Dalby, Notts, LE14 3JX

Take the direct route to quality

Cannock Gates at Factory Prices

Send for your brochure today

Our brochure is our shop. So you can see the huge range of quality gates offered by Britain's largest direct manufacturer. From beautiful timber gates to solid steel, wrought iron gates guaranteed for a lifetime. But you don't pay shop prices. See for yourself, send for your FREE 48 page colour brochure on 01943 462890.

on our 24 hour Express Brochure

Despatched, or write to: Cannock Gates Ltd TTY, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

Send your order to: Cannock Gates Ltd, 1000s Greenway, Cannock, Tame Valley, ST10 2XT

TERENCE CUNEO

The Final Catalogue of Signed Limited Editions

Choose from twenty-two magnificent subjects. Each print is individually signed by the late artist. Prices from £75 to £175.

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 935 5720

For your FREE copy phone 0171 935 0818

or 0171 9

Let your hair down in the tower

Hidden away in the Surrey commuter-belt is a fairy-tale castle for romantics everywhere

What I asked, "It's called the Deer Tower, is it?" "No, no," my editor said. "Not the Deer Tower. The Deer Tower. Doe, a deer, like that. It's a folly. In Surrey. Go on, see what you think." So off I went — and wouldn't you know it, but it is a deer tower. Standing on a high knoll and reaching about 100ft above the surrounding countryside, it was built in the middle of the 18th century so that the master of the manor a mile, or so away would have something pleasing to set his eye upon as he gazed from his great window. The tower now sits in its own 120 acres and the happy tenant may gaze back with impunity at the big house across the park.

The 40ft tower appears on a surveyor's map of 1808 and is described in its Listing (it is Grade II) as "a veridical's lookout or eyecatcher from the mansion". It is certainly the latter. Surrey is prime commuter-belt country, and the notion of a rural pad near Guildford conjures up the image of something small and square and snug, most likely cuddled close up to the next train-bound Londoner's cottage. The Deer Tower, therefore, is something of a revelation. Driving towards Shillingford, you turn on to a curving, unmarked track, and from behind a low rise the tower's crenellated turrets appear. It is a coy fortress, however, built for romance rather than repelling invaders: its tall front bow window (and the windows that punctuate both towers) would not be much use against even a crude medieval siege engine. Huge chest-



A window-cum-door leads to the ornamental lake

nut trees and tall yews sway nearby, carpets of bluebells surrounding their trunks in spring. This place seems a hundred miles from anywhere, not just a few from Virginia Bottomley's constituency.

Michael Taylor, an inventor who owns the tower, is looking for a tenant, though he is clearly eager to live in the place himself. It can be provided furnished or unfurnished. A month's rent — with the run of the grounds and gardens and plenty of space to land your helicopter — will cost you £8,750. This includes furnishing, which can be changed to suit the tenant.

Do not, however, expect to hold house parties for hundreds. Part of the Deer Tower's charm is its scale, which is, if not small, then unimposing.

A paved walk leads you away from the drive to a stone-floored dining room and a snug, red Aga'd kitchen. You could comfortably fit 12 around the dining room table, and the kitchen has two sculleries, but the low ceilings keep the rooms from seeming over grand.

It is in the dining room that you



Built for romance rather than repelling invaders, the turreted Deer Tower has impressive gardens

first encounter one of the Deer Tower's many charming features: curved bookshelves whose shape echoes that of the turreted towers. And you find that things at the Deer Tower are not always what they seem, because one set of bookshelves is actually a *trompe l'oeil* door concealing a handy little room for wellies and raincoats.

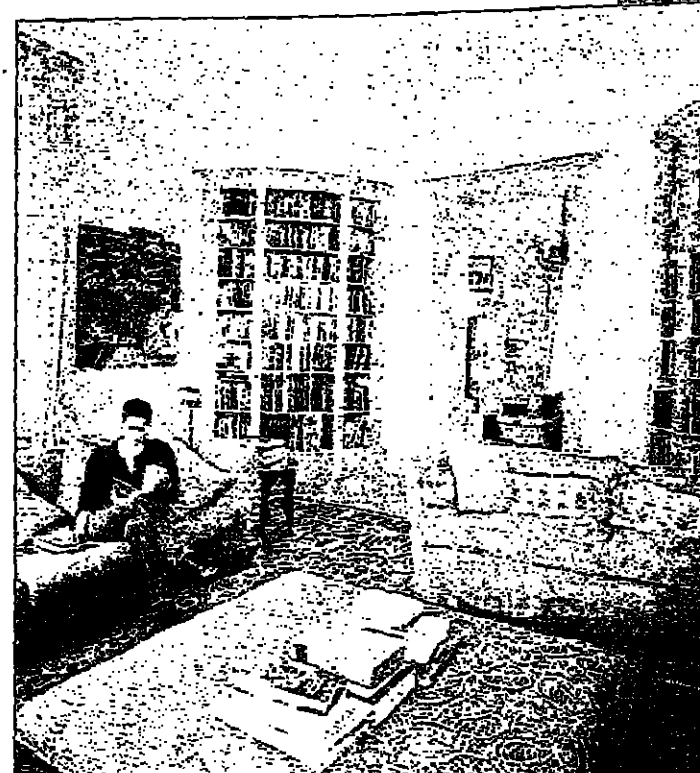
As you head upstairs the tower really comes into its own, and one of its finest features is the wooden spiral staircase (three full turns; 47

steps to the top), its steps fanning out from a beautiful, polygonal central wooden pillar. The walls are whitewashed, pierced by bright windows and divided by a delicate curving banister. Such graceful architecture would make dashing upstairs to retrieve a forgotten object a pleasure.

On the first floor the stairs open on to an octagonal sitting room, its walls pale ochre, its strong plaster mouldings echoing the shape of the tower's battlements. It isn't a big

room, but its view is grand, with a window-cum-door leading to a formal, French-style garden with an ornamental lake.

Many walls make many doors: spoking off from the sitting room are a larger, more formal sitting room, with more secrets hiding behind what seem to be bookcases, a tiny, octagonal antechamber and a library, which could also serve as a bedroom. The library, painted deep red, looks out over a very English garden: little paths and low



Bookcases in the sitting room aren't always what they appear to be

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

The Deer Tower, Shillingford, near Chiddingfold, Surrey. ● Rent: £8,750 a month. ● Shopping: For staples, Guildford is 12 miles to the north. Penworth, eight miles south, has 20 antique shops. ● Travel: Waterloo to Haslemere takes about an hour. ● Entertainment: Golf courses at Shillingford, Eton, Liphook and Hindhead — and, because there's space at the tower to land your helicopter, 18 holes at St Andrews wouldn't be too problematic. Parham and Arundel Castle are not far away for those who want to see the real grandeur that their comfortable folly reflects.

hedges and cherry trees. On all sides the gardens are splendid: unless you were a tenant wishing to do nothing else, part of the cost of running the Deer Tower would be keeping on the gardener who comes three days a week.

The library has an en suite bathroom, as do the two bedrooms upstairs. There is a guest bedroom on a mezzanine floor: the master bedroom is on the second floor. The latter has a terrace, and a bathroom and dressing room tucked into the towers. Both bedrooms are simple and comfortable: one of the pleasing things about the Deer Tower is that it is not intimidatingly grand.

For the finest views of the park, however, carry on up the stairs, past the master bedroom to the roof of the tower. Here, stretching all around — apart from the manor house across the way — is nothing but parkland, woods, fields where deer are to be found and a large lake, in which you may fish if you join the local club. And from this vantage point you can truly appreciate the beauty of the formal

gardens. You can also see the two garden pavilions: one of them fitted out as a studio, with tall windows and a gallery bedroom — perfect for visiting artist pals.

Back downstairs, Mr Taylor showed me a painting that the previous owners had commissioned before they sold the house. It is a detailed view of the house and all its grounds, done in bright, jewel colours, with the two owners and the painter making appearances on the canvas. It reminded me of the work of the artist Kit Williams, whose *Masquerade* had the whole country searching for a golden hare; and that is just the feel of the place, a little magical, a little mysterious — you might almost believe that the stone centurion hiding behind a hedge will open his mouth and speak.

Here, little more than an hour's drive from central London, is a secluded, fairy-tale castle, where happy endings would seem to be guaranteed.

ERICA WAGNER

● Agent: Hamptons (01483 577571)



ROYAL AVENUE, Chelsea, SW3

One of the larger houses in the historic location adjacent to St Leonard's Terrace.

5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, garden.

Freehold

Price Guide: £1,550,000

CHELSEA: 0171 352 1484

MALMESBURY

Chalfont Park

A first floor maisonette in a converted Grade I Listed mansion house with stunning views over the gardens and woodland.

2 bedrooms, bathroom, cloakroom, reception room, kitchen, garage.

Lease to 2074

Price Guide: £140,000

CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244



GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Tresham

A beautifully restored Grade II Listed farmhouse with spectacular views.

4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, kitchen, 3 attic rooms, garden.

To Let Unfurnished £1,200 p.c.m.

OXFORD LETTINGS: 01865 311522

JOHN D WOOD & CO

LONDON AND COUNTRY ESTATE AGENTS

ESTABLISHED 1872



SUMMER '97

Now available, our latest fully illustrated catalogue of houses and flats for sale and to rent in London and the Country.

Tel

0171-493 4106

Fax

0171-629 6071

LONDON OFFICES

BATTERSEA:

0171-228 0174

BELGRAVIA:

0171-730 9854

CHELSEA:

0171-352 1484

FULHAM:

0171-731 4223

KENSINGTON:

0171-727 0705

MAYFAIR:

0171-408 0055

ST JOHN'S WOOD:

0171-722 5566

WANDSWORTH:

0181-871 3033

WIMBLEDON:

0181-944 7172

COUNTRY OFFICES

HEAD OFFICE:

0171-493 4106

CIRENCESTER:

01285 642244

EAST GRINSTEAD:

01342 326326

FARNHAM:

01252 737115

LYMINGTON:

01590 677233

NEWBURY:

01635 523225

OXFORD:

01865 311522

WINCHESTER:

01962 863131

HONG KONG:

00 852 2 872 5146

26 CURZON STREET, LONDON W1P 0LD

0171-493 4106 FAX: 0171-629 6071

LETTINGS AND MANAGEMENT

To let your house or flat Central London 0171-491 4311

North London 0171-722 3336 Wimbledon & Surrey 0181-946 9447

South of the M4 01256 398004 North of the M4 01865 311522



HAMPSHIRE - Ashford Hill

Freehold Price Guide: £210,000

A new cottage with a separate small cottage/annexe in the garden offering the opportunity of a rental income, secondary accommodation or office use. 2/3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cloakroom, study/bedroom 3, 4 reception rooms, kitchen, store room, garage, gardens.

NEWBURY: 01635 523225

SHEFFIELD TERRACE

Kensington, W8

A beautiful south facing Victorian house with a delightful conservatory in a quiet street.

Freehold

Price Guide: £1,250,000

KENSINGTON: 0171 727 0705



HAMPSHIRE

New Forest

A contemporary style house with stables and grazing land, enjoying direct forest access.

5/6 beds, 3 baths, 2 recep, study/6 bed, kit, utility rm, garden, tennis court, 2 garages, playroom, workshop, 4 loose boxes, 3 paddocks.

Freehold

Price Guide: £375,000

LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

WIMBLEDON

Parkside, SW19

An outstanding modern house, with a west facing walled rear garden, backing directly onto the Common.

5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 cloakrooms, 4 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, double garage, garden.

Freehold

Price On Application

WIMBLEDON: 0181 944 7172



With a booming market, even houses with drawbacks are selling and can be picked up at discount prices

Problem house for sale

As the housing market improves and prices rise, the dearth of available properties in many parts of the country has meant that problem houses and flats which have been bypassed for the past two years are now finding buyers.

The kinds of flaws that can make a property difficult to sell include having a noisy main road, motorway, airport or railway line within earshot; subsidence, a short lease, a sitting tenant or a public footpath through the back yard, farmyard smells or army manoeuvres.

Most estate agents agree that whatever the blight, property will always sell — eventually — if the price is right. But when the market slumps and there is a glut of property, problem houses and flats are notoriously difficult to shift. However, in a good market, when supply is short, buyers are prepared to overlook their

drawbacks. The estate agency Knight Frank recently sold Warrens Gorse, a Grade II listed eight-bedroom Cotswold stone house in 21 acres of garden and paddocks, about 275 yards south of the new Cirencester bypass, for its asking price of £750,000.

Any Bear-Roberts, a Knight Frank partner, says: "A house of its size and facilities, in a quiet location away from any roads, would probably be on the market for £1 million, but the price reflects the proximity of the bypass and as a result we received a lot of interest. There will also be benefits from the bypass with easy access to Swindon, the M4 and the M5."

In Surrey, Carson and Company was flooded with offers when it advertised a modern four-bedroom house, a few yards from the M3 at Camberley. The house, which fetched £180,000, is one of several in the area owned by the Ministry of Transport and bought for a motorway-widening scheme that failed to materialise.

Chris Brown of Carson says: "Away from the motorway the same house would have been £225,000. In a quiet market it could have stayed on our books for two or three years but, with the current shortage of properties, such houses sell quickly for increasingly high prices."

In Hampshire, John D. Wood is asking £180,000 for Winchester Lodge, a Grade II listed 19th-century three-bedroom lodge house, on the edge of the M3. According to the firm's director Anthony Coaker, it would fetch £250,000 half a mile from the motorway.

The constant hum of a busy main road is generally considered to be worse than a railway, and for this reason you will get better value with a house affected by the noise of traffic, with discounts of up to 20 per cent. Homes built beneath aircraft flight paths



can attract even larger discounts, but if you are living near a military airbase the noise could be intolerable.

Even houses with the Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link at the bottom of the garden are now selling, according to Conrad Payne of Cluttons' Canterbury office. He says that in some areas close to the M20, railway banks being built for the link will deaden the noise of the M20 and house prices here may even appreciate.

Last year, David Parry of Cluttons' Maidstone office sold a five-bedroom 16th-century farmhouse, within 100 yards of the M20 and the high-speed rail link, for its asking price of £210,000. Away from road and rail, a similar house might have fetched 20 per cent more, he says.

In central London, the rumble of Tube trains under some houses in Kensington and Chelsea can wipe 5 to 15 per cent off the value. Streets such as Camden Grove, Peel Street and Bedford Gardens, which all run down to Kensington Church Street, have a Tube line underneath. A £1 million house may be reduced by £150,000. A similar disparity applies to houses and flats opposite council estates.

The closer to Kensington Church Street, the bigger the discount to take account of the busy road, according to Tim Wright of Savills' Kensington office.

A property on a short lease can be hard to resell, unless it is in Knightsbridge or Belgravia. High-street banks and building societies are reluctant to lend on leases with less than 60 years to run. But it can be good value for cash buyers, provided you get one which is extendable or enfranchisable — which means that the buyer has the right to negotiate a new lease after three years. This is likely to cost about 60 per cent of the freehold or long leasehold value, with 30 or 40 years left to run.

The London estate agency Chesterfield is offering a four-bedroom flat on the fourth floor of a converted period building in Ennismore Gardens, SW7, for £695,000 for a 29-year lease. If the lease were extended to 105 years, which would cost around £150,000, the flat would be worth about £925,000, says Matthew Kaye of Chesterfield.

Short leases are less common in the countryside, however. John D. Wood's Winchester office is selling the 14-year lease on a three-bedroom detached cottage on the Marquis of Bath's Longleat estate. Offers around £37,000 are being invited, although its freehold value is around £150,000.

A sitting tenant with a registered tenancy would

knock between 65 and 85 per cent off the vacant value of the property, according to London estate agency Winkworth. With assured short-hold tenancies, value will be largely unaltered because the owner can get vacant possession within a short period. But you might be able to negotiate 5 per cent off.

A house with a serious structural defect, such as subsidence, is more of a problem. Building societies are not prepared to lend on such properties, which are often difficult to insure. Even in the current market, purchasers are wary of buildings that are moving.

As a general rule, when a

survey reveals subsidence, the property is taken off the market and the vendor's insurer pays for monitoring and remedial work, sometimes underpinning, before the house is offered for resale. But buildings that have been underpinned may be shunned by insurers, prospective purchasers and building society valuers.

Wrecks that are not subsiding are a different proposition. Such properties in need of restoration or modernisation used to take a long time to sell, now they are in demand and fetch increasingly high prices, according to Sheila Hodgkinson of Cluttons' Oxford office,

who has a waiting list of prospective purchasers looking for houses requiring work. But renovation costs are high and you might not recoup the money when you sell.

The desire to move from suburbia to a rural setting is often dampened when it is realised that agricultural smells come with the package. West Country agency Marchant Pett says it had agreed the sale of a house near a farm, deep in the Devon lanes. The London buyer's surveyor made his inspection on a day when the annual muck spreading had taken place. When the offending odours were mentioned in his report, the buyers disappeared, and the house sold to a local buyer for the asking price. A pig or chicken farm next door, however, would knock up to 20 per cent off the value of a house.

An army training ground on the doorstep might seem a significant drawback, but Knight Frank's Hungerford office recently sold a 17th-century farmhouse in six acres at Everleigh, a Wiltshire hamlet, abutting Salisbury Plain. Despite tank, helicopter and assault troop noise, the house fetched £500,000 — about £150,000 less than a similar house a few miles away.

A footpath or bridle path can slash up to 15 per cent off property value where they affect the security or privacy of the house. Much depends on how often the path is used.

CHERYL TAYLOR

FLOOD WARNING



HOUSES beside rivers, creeks or the sea are highly sought after and fetch a premium of up to 50 per cent despite their increased risk of flooding, says Robert Theobald of Fulford's Water-side Homes in Devon. It is possible to allow for flooding in the design of a property. Floors should either be tiled or slated, with no timber skirting boards. There should be mini-

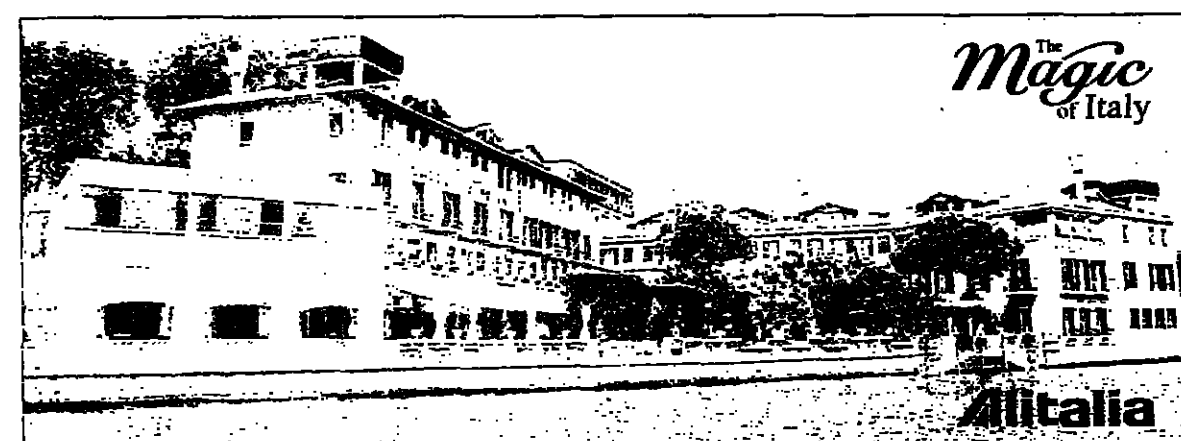
mal furnishings which can be easily removed to the first floor level. Houses with cellars can be fitted with automatic pumps.

Some waterfront houses have their own flood defences and can be surrounded by substantial walls or mounds. The drive will have to be raised and provision made to stop drains flowing the wrong way.

COMPETITION AND READER OFFER THE TIMES

WIN A WEEKEND FOR TWO IN VENICE

Plus take a friend free to the *Serenissima* exhibition



The Times, in conjunction with the exhibition at the European Academy & Accademia Italiana, *Serenissima: the Arts of Fashion in Venice from the 15th to the 18th Century* and in association with Alitalia and Italian tour specialists

The Magic of Italy, give you the chance to win one of two fabulous weekend breaks in Venice staying at the Hotel Cipriani.

For almost one thousand years Venice was La Serenissima, the most serene republic, leading the world in trade — and fashion. With more than 180 loans from private and public collections, the exhibition, at 8 Grosvenor Place, London, from May 13-July 20, 1997, is a celebration of the variety and individuality of Venetian fashion.

On display are the shoes with 23-inch soles of a fifteenth-century courtesan, the carnival costumes of the eighteenth century, paintings and prints, including the works of Pietro Longhi, illustrating the important role of crafts at that time.

The winners will fly Alitalia and transfer by water taxi to the luxurious Hotel Cipriani which was created to provide the best of Venetian hospitality. The prizes

for two people for two nights includes breakfast on both days and one dinner at the hotel and free admission to the Museo Correr and Palazzo Mocenigo. The winners also get free admission to the *Serenissima* exhibition.

For further information about the *Serenissima* exhibition please call 0171-235 0303.

HOW TO ENTER

Simply call our competition hotline below with your answer to the following question:

The ruler of Venice during the Renaissance was a) a king b) a prince c) a doge

The line will be open until midnight on Tuesday.

CALL 0891 866 977

+44 990 200 677 outside the UK

0831 calls cost 50p per minute

For information on flights to Venice, please call Alitalia Reservation on 0171-602 7111. For a free Magic of Italy brochure, call 012333 211 810

THE TIMES

Serenissima Exhibition voucher

This voucher entitles the bearer to a free adult ticket worth £5 when you buy one full-price adult ticket to: *Serenissima: the Arts of Fashion in Venice from the 15th to the 18th Century*. The exhibition runs from May 13-July 20, 1997 at 8 Grosvenor Place, London SW1.

SELLING POINTS PONDS

Nothing is guaranteed to put a house viewer more on guard than things watery. A hint of rising damp, wet rot, gurgly plumbing or dark patches and they start moving towards the front door. It is ironic, then, that gallons of water poured into a hole in the ground has the opposite effect. Watch anyone step into a garden with a pond and they are drawn towards it like Pool Bear to a honey jar. If nothing else, a pond will help your house stand out in the jaded memory of househunters. Ponds can transform a bland town garden or drab backyard. They create their own microclimate, supporting moisture loving plants and mosses, and attracting dragonflies and butterflies. And these days, with plastic pond liners, you don't need to hire a concrete mixer.

A pond needs a sunny, sheltered spot, away from overhanging trees. Ideally, it should be a minimum of 35 to 40 square metres and between 40 cm and 76 cm deep. Smaller ponds may suffer from algae, cloudy water and slime as the water cannot aerate efficiently. An algicide can help or you could install a filtration system. If too shallow, the water will evaporate in summer and freeze in winter, killing or damaging plants and fish. With limited space, you will need to be vigilant: topping up the water in summer and taking fish

indoors in the winter. The choice is between a pre-formed or flexible pond liner. The former is easier to install but more expensive (from £40 to more than £250). They are limited in size and shape. Flexible liners can be made to any configuration but demand more care when fitting. Expect to pay between £20 and £50. In small spaces, stick to geometric styles; complex, "natural" shapes can look like large puddles.

For both types, you must line the hole with sand before installing the liner. If you opt for a flexible liner, dig out a shallow shelf around the edge for marginal plants. Surround the pond with paving stones or bricks to shade and disguise the liner. Safety is also important, particularly with young children. Consider surrounding the

pond with looped wire fencing. After filling with water, let it stand for a week or so before adding plants. Go for a good mixture — marginals, floaters, oxygenating plants and, of course, the water lily. It is easier and less messy to keep plants in their containers. If adding fish, take advice from a reputable fish stockist and remember that they will need extra attention.

If space is cramped you can create a small pond out of any watertight container, such as a half-barrel or old sink. Add pebbles or stones and a few marginals or dwarf lilies.

Keep an eye on your pond. Leaves, shallow water and shade will turn it into a stodge, green slime — almost as bad as rising damp and wet rot.

HELEN PICKLES

CHANGING TIMES

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Rural Britain is preparing for the summer invasion of townies, most of them blissfully unaware of the grim realities of country living

The darling luvvies of May

I fling my arms wide to welcome them, prepare to kiss them fleetingly on both cheeks, brace myself to tell them how marvellous it is to see them. The darling luvvies of May are out of winter hibernation and on their way to the country. I think they should receive a truly rural welcome.

It was reported in this newspaper a couple of weeks ago that a couple of smart London clubs, hordes of "media movers and shakers", are to set up branches of their West End establishments in the country. Just basic, humble places where a troubled soul can be at peace: you know, 30 bedrooms, a 25-metre pool, gym, squash courts and an editing suite, like all country people have.

The brochure offers "a warm dining room/bar serving wholesome, unfussy food". Real country cooking from the heart of England. Well, from the River Café cookbook anyway. It is the declared intention of these clubs "to provide an alternative to weekenders", in which case, where will they find any customers? Have you ever heard anyone of any style who admits to being a "weekender"?

Instead, they will dress their fleeting residences with such expressions as "we

come down every free moment we have" or lie boldly by saying "we live in the country" when all they do is turn up for the best three weekends of the summer and endear themselves to all by clearing the post office of bread in a Saturday dawn raid. One of the best euphemisms was from an author whose flyleaf says: "Suffolk has been her home, if not her dwelling place, for many years."

Will any of these movers and shakers ever move themselves away from the log fire and shake their minds into a broader understanding of what day-to-day country living is like? In case any of them feel they should, may I offer my itinerary for the New Country Weekend?

It begins in a car, ends in a car and much of it is conducted from behind a steering wheel. Expect the early stages to be slow. This, of course, is just what the harassed, creative type needs to unwind: three hours behind a convoy of caravans, mesmerised by the plastic flowers dawning in the broad window of the

lumbering mobile home ahead.

Families need not be excluded from the joys of travelling: somewhere in the bottom of the 14 Sainsbury's carrier bags is the one bar of chocolate the children are allowed all weekend, and they want it now. The fruitless search and the resulting bad temper puts our intrepid traveller in the ideal frame of mind for the moment he

can pull off the trunk road into the freedom of a leafy country lane — where he soon finds a massive tractor ahead. The driver will be so high in the cab that he will not be able to see you behind him because of low cloud. Strapped to the back of this tractor will be a sprayer, its

DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

arms folded like a nightmare insect. You will have many slow miles in which to observe the sloshing contents of that spray tank, wonder what it is and what it might do to you. Is that fine mist on the windscreen some kind of leakage? Why are bubbles appearing on the paintwork of the car? Even so, you do not get the real flavour of country living by arriving in a car. Instead, do the plucky thing and see if you can get down here by train and bus. This might take longer than the two days available to you. Do not despair if you have been standing by the roadside for two hours, wondering when the bus will appear, a kindly passing soul will tell you

that it's a once-weekly service, on a Wednesday. So you get a taxi, and the driver will tell you in great detail how he had his own business, till the Tesco opened on the bypass, and the business rate finished him off.

But there are country walks to be had, and I expect these rural branches of London clubs will have this well organised with guided tours. Bill Oddie will be hired to point out thrushes and David Bellamy to highlight the flora before you tread on it. I'm sure that garden centre outside Marlborough has some just like it. We'll stop on the way back. But for the real country weekend experience, you should strike off and find your own haven of peace in an otherwise troubled world. Take wirecutters for the inevitable barbed strands artistically draped across the footpath and check your insurance in case a four-wheel drive enthusiast loses it while trying a handbrake turn just as you have

one leg over the stile. Go in search of a wild flower meadow, imagining yourself into a Merchant Ivory screenplay as you float through the daisies.

This may take time. Finding a wild flower meadow needs a search party or a helicopter with trained observers. Instead, take as your inspiration the Bloomsbury group. Imagine how they would handle it. Ensure you have a large hat, are well versed in the gardening styles of Vita Sackville West, take an elegant tea and prepare to exchange rapier-sharp, erudite observations with fellow guests. But remember to raise your voice for your most crushing epigrams because the army helicopters will be on low-flying practice. Or that tractor driver has chosen the next field to take revenge on all things natural.

But never mind, the creators of these rural retreats, little bits of Soho midst the meadows, will have fitted every room with a Jacuzzi. Marvellous, as long as the water holds out.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters. Write to Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

A pound to combat pounding feet

Gareth Huw

Davies finds visitors will willingly pay for the damage to Lakeland

David Bellamy famously described in 1981 the impact of huge numbers of visitors on one of Britain's most treasured landscapes. "The Lake District is being loved to death," he said. Now, 16 years later, the visitors are beginning to pay for their passion in the way he hoped.

One expression of the careless violence people do to the adored Lakeland — visited by more than 12 million people a year — is the eroded footpath, gouged into a trough by unrepentant tramping boots.

Paul Kear spent last summer restoring degraded paths at Stickle Ghyll in Langdale using the ancient art of pointing — anchoring stones, iceberg-fashion, deep into the path to form a horse-proof surface good for generations.

Mr Kear's work was largely financed by a £1 voluntary levy on the customers of two holiday companies, Cottage Life and Lakelanders. So far the visitors have donated £10,000. Their generosity may hear the unfortunate officer of The Highland Council in Scotland, whose proposal last week to charge walkers on Ben Nevis £1 for the upkeep of the paths and visitor facilities was first roundly savaged by recreation bodies, then thrown out by councillors.

The Cumbrian experience, where the newly formed Lake District Tourism and Conservation Partnership is co-ordinating two dozen separate repair and restoration schemes funded by visitors, suggests that people are willing to contribute to make good the damage they do to the landscape, if they are asked nicely.

Peter Jackson, the owner of Cottage Life, believes the crucial difference with the stalled Ben Nevis proposal is that the donations his customers make in Lakeland are entirely voluntary, and they are told precisely what their money is being spent on. Cottage Life even informs customers where Mr Kear is working, so they can stroll up and have a chat with him. This summer he is up in Langdale again.

Last year a few of Mr Jackson's 6,000 customers refused to make a donation. He believes those who



Paul Kear, left, with his assistant David Parry, reinforcing a footpath in Langdale with stones against the onslaught of walkers. The cost of the repairs was financed largely by the £1 voluntary levy

ticked the opt-out box on their booking form did so under the mistaken impression that they were in fact agreeing to the levy.

Visitors seem just as willing to pay a levy which the bus company Mountain Goat puts on its touring holidays. Last year not one person who booked with the bus company refused to pay an extra £1, used to fence off a stretch of one of the busiest footpaths in the entire Lake District where it passes through a farmyard.

Until now, walkers on the highly popular two-mile circuit around Buttermere have flooded in crowds of Piccadilly Circus density over the public right of way through Gatesgarth Farm. This summer,

Mountain Goat hopes to raise the additional £900 needed to complete the special walkway which will bypass the farmyard.

There is always a long list of urgent conservation tasks in the Lake District National Park. Nearly 70 miles of footpaths alone need repair work totalling an estimated £1.2 million. Much of the burden falls on the park authority and the National Trust, which work within tight budgets. The Lake District Tourism and Conservation Partnership saw a new source of funds, believing visitors would be willing to make a personal contribution to the upkeep of the Lakes.

The partnership unites the guardians of the landscape — the

conservation bodies and statutory authorities — with the people who make money from the lakes, including some of the principal hoteliers, and encourages them to work together. It is believed to be the only such scheme in Britain.

This spring the partnership achieved corporate status after a three-year trial in which it raised £10,000 for conservation projects. And Mr Bellamy believes its work is the appropriate response to his warning, which he delivered to a convention of Cumbrian hoteliers.

"I'm not sure if I was the first person to say those words," he says. "Perhaps I was. But I told them,

"Here you lot are, using a landscape to make your living, and how much of the money goes into looking after the environment here? Sweet Fanny Adams. How many of you ask for contributions? No one." So this is an amazingly good move, very good news. It's the way forward for environment protection all over the world."

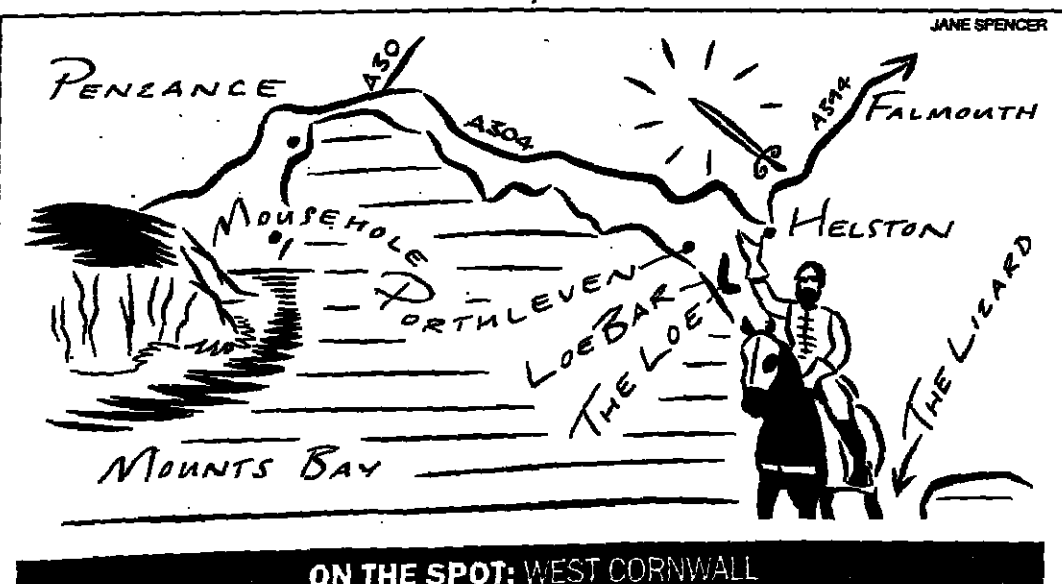
The partnership has hit on a new fund-raising strategy with the local brewer Jennings. This summer, patrons in Jennings pubs will be invited to play a picture quiz — "Guess the Lake" — for 50p. The prize is a holiday in the Lake District. The money raised will support the £5,000 project to restore eroded grass around Castlerigg.

The neolithic stone circle near Keswick. Customers at the Regent Hotel, Waterhead, near Ambleside, also know the management cares. The hotel made a £500 donation to remaking a traditional packhorse bridge on the route up to Edale Tarn. Most of the £12,000 cost is being met by the parks authority and other bodies. Hotel guests are being asked to fund the £2,000 shortfall.

Striding Edge is a company which makes videos of Lakeland walks, and is headed by Eric Robson of BBC Radio 4's *Gardeners' Question Time*. An appeal it included with its first video, issued last year, has raised £1,500. I found comparatively little oppo-

sition in the Lake District to the conservation levies. However several people I spoke to suggested that they might become an excuse for the Government to reduce or freeze grant aid, as has happened with arts funding.

John Toothill, a national park officer, is sanguine: "In an ideal world we would receive as much money as we need to run a national park. 75 per cent of it from the Government, and then we wouldn't need to seek other sources of funds. But I think the tourism and conservation initiative is slightly different, in that it is about people who come to the Lake District and genuinely want to contribute, yet didn't know how."



ON THE SPOT: WEST CORNWALL

Rural recommendations

Place: The cliff road, Porthleven.

View: Before you is an ever-changing seascape bounded by the Lizard to the south and the cliffs beyond Mousehole to the west. Behind, hard-favoured Cornish landscape, sparsely mantled with trees which bow before the relentless winds.

Appeal: The constant warfare between the untameable elements and a resolute coastline, to which cling granite cottages and those who dwell in them.

Afficionados: Anyone who responds to the above. The natives themselves come out to gaze at the sheer fury of the high spring tides.

Historical interest: A tiny, but busy port in times

gone by. Now a quiet, picturesque harbour echoing to the call of gulls. Guy Gibson, VC, the Dambuster hero, spent much of his youth here. A street is named after him.

Time of year: Autumn and winter to witness the awesome power of the ocean. Summer for an almost Mediterranean warmth and tranquillity.

How to get there: A394 and B3304 roads from either Falmouth or Penzance.

OS reference: 625255 (Landranger 203).

Nearby: Walk the cliffs to Loe Bar and Pool — the latter, locals say, is the mere into which Sir Bedivere finally cast King Arthur's sword Excalibur.

PETER DAVIES

Love songs with a croaky appeal

BUNTINGS are an attractive group of birds whose name rightly suggests that they have a chubby look. They are thick-beaked seed-eaters, like their close relatives the finches, and might be described as finches with long tails.

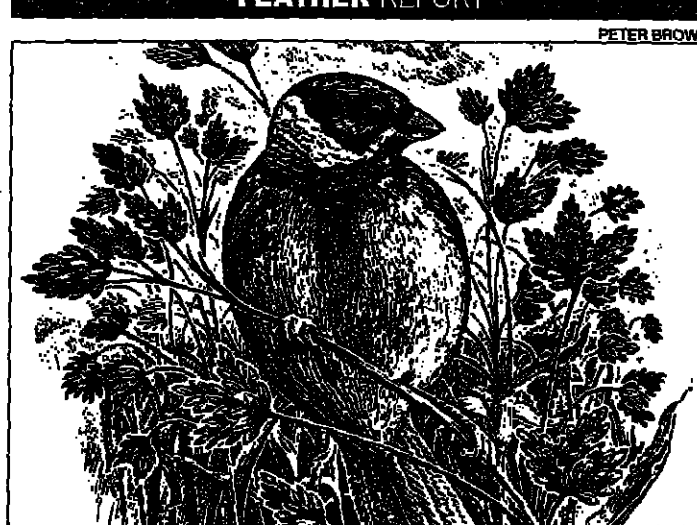
In Britain, the three common species are the yellowhammer (sometimes called the yellow bunting), the corn bunting and the reed bunting. Yellowhammers and corn buntings have always been birds of the fields and hedgerows, and in recent years the reed bunting has joined them there.

It is still predominantly a bird of the reedbeds and willows, but lately many have moved away from their territories in fields of barley and oilseed rape. I have seen all three species singing alongside a field in the same long hedge, and a merry sight they were.

They all have fairly flat, croaky songs, but the males display themselves conspicuously as they sing them. Yellowhammers and corn buntings sit on telephone wires or the top spray of a bush. In their wetland habitat, reed buntings perch on the fluffy top of a bulrush or the highest twig of a willow tree.

The reed bunting's song is the most monotonous of the three — a

FEATHER REPORT



A reed bunting likes to perch on the fluffy tops of bulrushes

few chinking notes with a scratchy little trill to complete it. It repeats this dry sound from its high perch hour by hour. But it is a fine sight as it sits there. It has a jet-black head with a white collar at the back and a fierce-looking white moustache. Its back is a rich chestnut colour, so beautifully streaked and barred that it always reminds me of a Turkish rug. On its shoulders

the chestnut becomes practically crimson. It opens its beak wide every time it delivers a snatch of song, and all the time it flirts its tail, showing the white edges.

Reed buntings are vigorous birds. The male courts his mate mainly by chasing her through the undergrowth, though he will also lift his black crown feathers and puff out his white collar to make an

impression. They make their nest in the tangled lower branches of an osier or a tussock of grass, or among the dense jungle of oilseed rape. Their four or five eggs have a marshy look — olive, with dark spots or slashes.

THE BIRDS are also well-known for their habit of "injury-feigning" when they have young in the nest. If a predator arrives on the scene, one of the parents will put on a very convincing display of having an injured wing. It will flutter along a track between the reeds, trailing its wing as though it were broken, offering itself as tempting prey to a cat or a fox. It will adjust its speed to keep at a steady distance from its pursuer, and as soon as it is far enough away from the nest, it will fly off.

A number of birds do this — but the reed bunting is one of the most skilful performers.

DERWENT MAY

What's about: Buntings — look out for the first spotted flycatchers in gardens and woodland. Twelvemonths — black-headed wheatear. St Agnes, Isles of Scilly: night heron. Holkham, Norfolk: red-rumped swallow. Stoke Lake, Surrey: Details from Birdline, (091) 770022. Calls cost 40p a minute cheep rate. 50p at all other times.

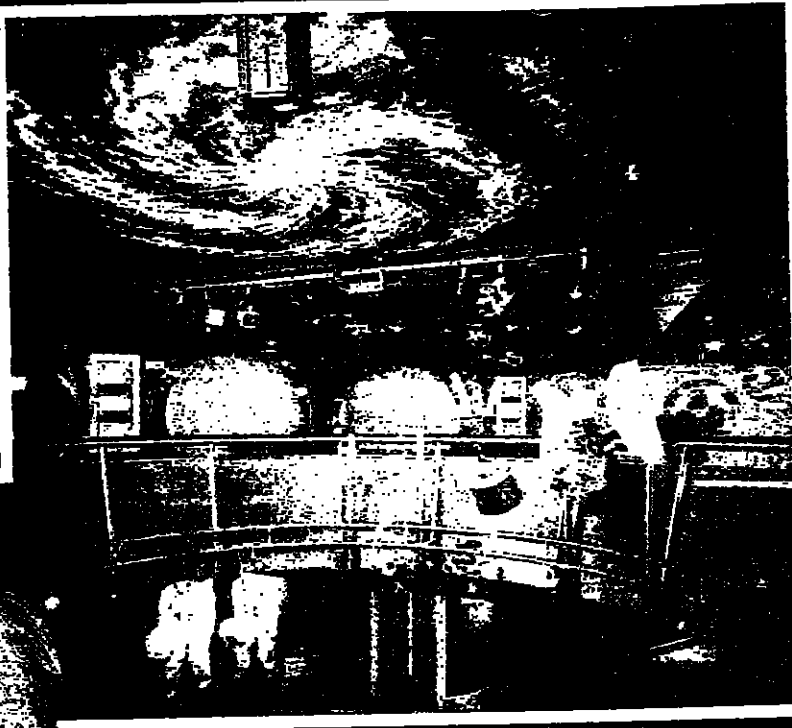
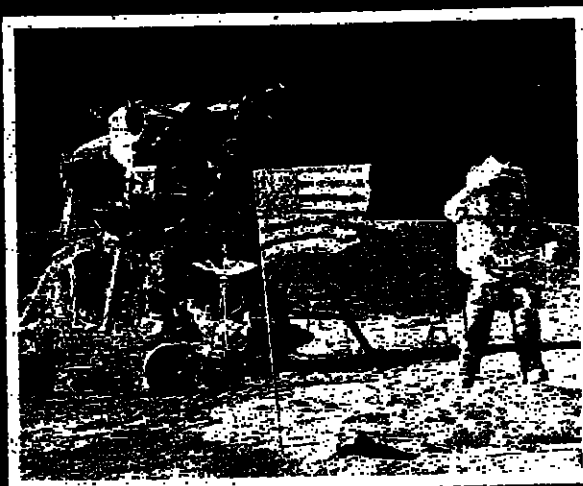
WEEKEND · SATURDAY MAY 10 1997

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

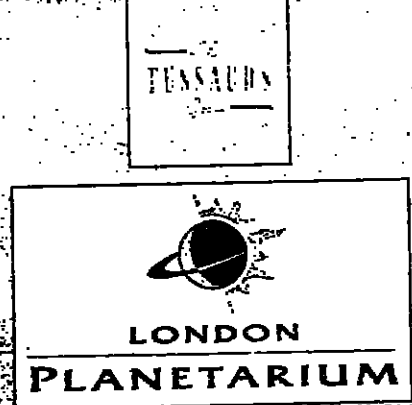
Get a free child ticket for the London Planetarium

The Times, in association with the London Planetarium, offers you the chance to get a free child ticket to one of London's most exciting venues. Following its £4.5 million relaunch, the London Planetarium has introduced a specially-created show which gives visitors a unique perspective of the solar system through the eyes of space travellers. It includes an exploding supernova, space probes, Neptune's hurricane storms, Saturn and Titan's methane snowstorms, a panoramic sweep across the canyons of Mars and a zoom through London.



HOW TO APPLY

Attach token with token



THE TIMES/THE LONDON PLANETARIUM FREE CHILD TICKET VOUCHER

Attach token one from The Times to this voucher and, when you purchase a full-price adult ticket, you will be admitted with one child at no extra charge. To The London Planetarium, Marylebone Road, London NW1. Present the voucher and tokens at the main entrance ticket booth.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms First name _____
Surname _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Day Tel (inc STD code) _____

OFFER CONDITIONS 1. The offer is valid for one child free when accompanied by one adult paying the full price. 2. The offer applies up to May 31, 1997. 3. Each voucher must be accompanied by two Times/London Planetarium tokens. 4. No photocopies of vouchers or tokens will be accepted. 5. There is no restriction on how many attractions you may visit. 6. You can get more than one free child ticket by purchasing extra newspapers and by buying an accompanying adult ticket. 7. Tokens not for resale and cannot be exchanged for cash. 8. Vouchers may not be used in conjunction with any other discount offer or concession rate.

It would help us if you answered these four questions:

Which one of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

☐ 11-15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by The Times, please tick ☐ TOR71



CHANGING TIMES



Bedlinen

Stairlift Rentals.

Call us now on freephone 0800 19 19 19

For a free no obligation quote.

- Next day installation available nationwide.
- Direct from the manufacturer.
- Rent or buy.
- New or reconditioned.

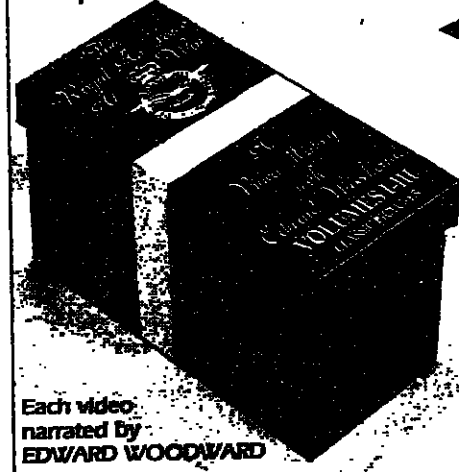


FREE VIDEO Gift Offer for FATHER'S DAY

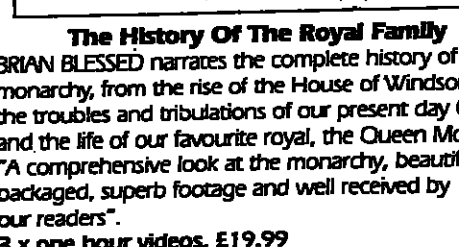
FREE VIDEO Worth £10.99



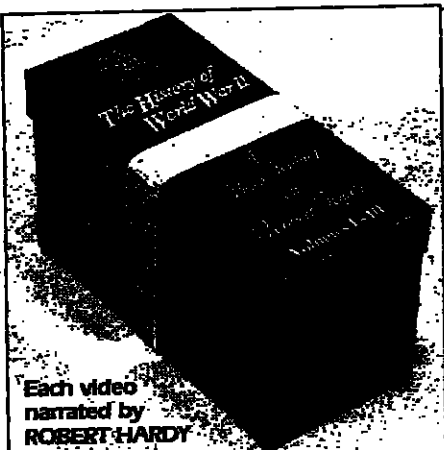
"I DON'T BELIEVE IT!" Buy any ONE of our collector's gift sets and we will give you absolutely FREE Richard Wilson's brand NEW video release 'Both Feet in the Army' (normally £10.99). 1997 is the anniversary of National Service. This is a comical, grumpy, nostalgic look from TV's favourite character about life for anyone who was conscripted into National Service in the RAF, Army and Navy.



The Royal Air Force At War
Depicting the RAF's many achievements during the war years 1939-1945. "Actor EDWARD WOODWARD narrates this, one of the finest series of films on the RAF we have ever seen, a remarkable production and one that will bring great pleasure to those who served in the RAF or have a passion for aircraft". Retired Officers Magazine 3 x one hour videos, £19.99



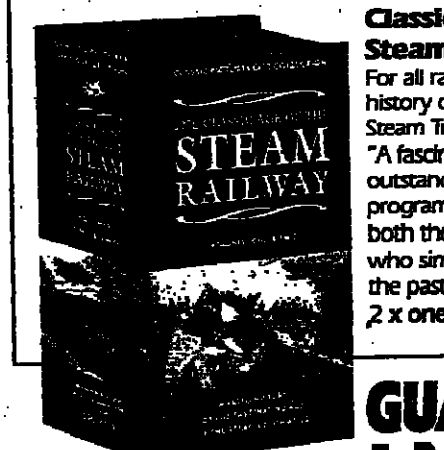
The History of the Royal Family
BRIAN BLESSED narrates the complete history of our monarchy, from the rise of the House of Windsor, to the troubles and tribulations of our present day Queen and the life of our favourite royal, the Queen Mother. "A comprehensive look at the monarchy, beautifully packaged, superb footage and well received by our readers". 3 x one hour videos, £19.99



The History of World War II
The major battles and events of World War II are all depicted in this superb collection. "Narrated by one of Britain's finest actors ROBERT HARDY, this is an outstanding and dramatic account of the greatest conflict the world has ever known". 3 x one hour videos, £19.99.



The History of the SAS
An explosive look at the sensational world of the SAS. Twenty Five of the Elite Force's most breathtaking and often secret conflicts and operations from all around the globe. Featuring "World Exclusive" material which has never been seen before. "Who Dares Wins; and this programme certainly is a winner". SOLDIER 1 (EX-SAS) 2 x one hour videos, £19.99



Classic Age of the Steam Railway
For all railway enthusiasts, a history of the golden age of the Steam Train. "A fascinating collection, offering outstanding value, this is a programme that will delight both the enthusiast and those who simply enjoy remembering the past". 2 x one hour videos, £19.99

GUARANTEED 7 DAY DESPATCH

Classic Pictures Ltd., (Dept. E10T1MA), Shepperton Studios, Studio No. 50, Studio Road, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 0DD.

PRIORITY LINES (OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK)
01932 572017
01932 572018

Order by phone or by using the coupon opposite. Don't forget to claim your FREE catalogue when you order.

In the Finest Bespoke Tradition, introducing the....

Classic Plus Trouser

West End Quality Tailoring now available at less than wholesale prices...

Before paying £45, £55 even £75 a pair! Why not inspect these superb trousers under our no-quibble money back guarantee... we know you won't be disappointed.

We took our top trouser specification to our best tailors. Their brief was to produce the most comfortable cool summer trousers, equally ideal for business or leisure. We were so pleased with the results that we committed a full 2 months of their total production in return for super low prices. We have passed these savings on to you. Machine washable Polycotton fabric keeps a crisp crease all day. The unique clip & button front high rise waistband is so comfortable. 2 side and 1 buttoned rear pocket with 19-19" plain bottoms. Belt loops and a tough zip fly. COLOURS: Fawn, Grey or Navy. INSIDE LEG: 27.29.31 & 33". WAIST SIZES: 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 & 52". (Please note, there are NO EXTRA CHARGES for the Bigger Man) Despatch normally within 7 days. All come with the full Jolliman Guarantee.

JOLLI MAN JOLLI MAN LIMITED (DEPT 41F19) 18 Brighton Road, Worthing, Sussex BN11 3ED

Please send me 2 pairs of CLASSIC PLUS TROUSERS under money back guarantee for £24.99 with NOT A PENNY MORE TO PAY

REP	COLOUR	2ND COL CHOICE	WAIST	LEG	QTY
JA07					
JA07					

I enclose cheque/P.O. for £... payable to Jolliman or debit my Access/Visa card. Expiry date

No. _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

INSPECT AT HOME FOR 7 DAYS & RETURN FREE for a full refund, without quibble, if you are in any way dissatisfied, with your order.

HOTLINE ORDER SERVICE
01903 202944
PHONE ANYDAY ANY TIME

Callers Welcome at JOLLI MAN LTD (DEPT 41F19) 18 BRIGHTON RD, WORTHING, SUSSEX BN11 3ED

100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE OF SATISFACTION

Classic Pictures Ltd., (Dept. E10T1MA), Shepperton Studios, Studio No. 50, Studio Road, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 0DD.

Please send me the following video collection(s) plus my FREE copy of "Both Feet in the Army"

Collection	Qty.	Price	Total
The RAF at War		£19.99	
History of the Royal Family		£19.99	
Classic Story of the SAS		£19.99	
The History of World War II		£19.99	
Classic Age of Steam		£19.99	
"Both Feet in the Army"	1	FREE	FREE
Classic Pictures Catalogue	1	FREE	FREE
Post & Packing			£3.00
Grand Total			£

I enclose cheque/P.O. for £... Inc. p&p made payable to Classic Pictures Ltd. Valid From _____ Expiry Date _____ Switch Issue No. _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss _____ Signature

Address _____

Postcode _____

If you do not wish to receive further Special Offers from us, or from companies we recommend, please tick the box. Classic Pictures Ltd. Reg No. 2642433

Your own piece of life's rich tapestry

The narrative tapestry is immediately redolent of Bayeux, the woven story of William The Conqueror and poor Harold II with that arrow in his eye. But while woven wall-hangings may be appropriate for castles, keeps, and great halls, they are not widely thought of as viable art forms for our own interiors.

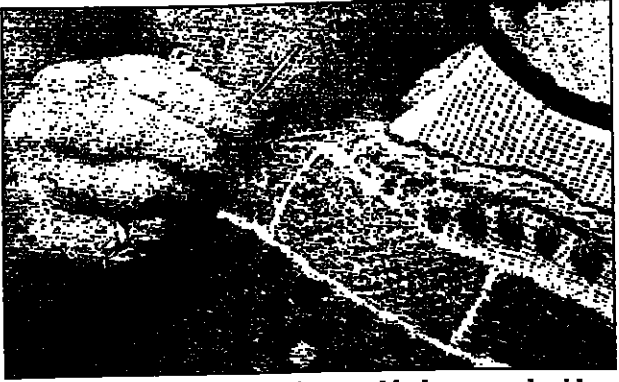
Yet in the hands of Phoebe Hart, the tapestry takes on a bright, contemporary touch. Her hangings and rugs are sought after as family heirlooms and as low-maintenance art works. An exhibition about to open in Cork Street, London, gives Hart's long-time passion a long-overdue respectability.

Hart, who is 80, trained at the Slade in stage design under Vladimir Polunin, who had designed sets for Diaghilev. Dramatic arts flourished in the 1930s and Hart was employed making backdrops for ballets, while also painting portraits and murals. She married early, became a land girl during the Second World War, lost her first husband in the conflict then went to New York to work.

Then, following a chance meeting, she went to Jamaica where she remarried and lived for 37 years. It was there that Hart began to embroider as part of a rehabilitation scheme for tubercular patients in an organisation called Carawak Crafts. Unimpressed with the unimaginative designs they had been given, Hart designed new patterns, influenced by the colours and sights of the island and by the vibrant contemporary Caribbean painting that flourished in Haiti.

"Some of the embroiderers became very skilled," recalls Hart, who worked with Carawak for the next two decades. The work that they

Tapestries are often disregarded as genuine art forms but Phoebe Hart's designs are changing that



Hart's style combines twisted yarn with sharper embroidery

produced became widely recognised, and Hart presented designs of Jamaican birds and shells to the Queen and to Princess Margaret on state visits.

At this time, Hart frequently visited England, and met a friend who had started to make rugs to old Iberian designs. She adopted the friend's technique, using a background of the Bargello stitch — a long, straight stitch useful as a ground for more detailed motifs — and began making floor coverings.

Having American parents meant that she inherited an appreciation of American folk art, so she began to produce rag rugs and native paintings. She sold several designs through the American embroidery doyenne, Erica Wilson, but she gave up this potential mass market in favour of one-off pieces. "I hate repeating designs," she says. It proved more profitable to cut out the middle man and concentrate on making rugs and hangings to commission. For some years she has been making rugs and

tends to embroider vignettes which illustrate her clients' lives: a rug for two journalists based in Moscow has Russian dolls in one panel, onion domes in another, another hanging for a golden wedding anniversary has several panels around the central motif of the nuptial church.

In another piece a Rolls-Royce's radiator glitters with a tinny wool, while a tapestry for a businessman in Tobago is finished in the brilliant colours of the coral of that island. Hart is often asked to make funeral animal pieces — one wall hanging graphically illustrates a cat on its way to heaven. But she resists dry historical recreation and the lure of reproducing them for business purposes. "I've been asked to put designs into production," she says, "but though each piece is quite painstaking, I rather like it that there is just one."

As artworks, they are easy to maintain. "Tapestry is extremely durable, and doesn't pull out of shape," she says, adding that while there can be damage from light, as with a favourite pair of jeans, the fading can be attractive. Some of her pieces can work on either wall or floor, and all can be cleaned with carpet cleaner.

Embroidery suffers, she thinks, from being thought of as a leisure occupation, or a cottage industry, or it is patronised as a dilettante female pursuit despite the fact that Kaffe Fassett, perhaps the best known embroiderer in the country, is a man. But those with such preconceptions might miss one of the more reasonably priced ways of acquiring a bespoke artwork.

OLIVER BENNETT
 Phoebe Hart's rugs and hangings can be seen at The Gallery, 28, Cork Street, London W1, from May 19-31.



Phoebe Hart's tapestries are much sought-after as family heirlooms. The Queen and Princess Margaret both have one

Crown your pond with living jewels

Koi carp are sociable and peaceful — and could make you a millionaire

This weekend the competition judges will be looking for shape, deportment and flawless skin. But they will not be admiring a catwalk of supermodels. This is the season of koi carp shows.

"Going to shows is a great introduction to koi keeping, because you will find small and big fish in all their varieties and people selling a whole range of equipment," says Nigel Caddock, managing editor of the magazine *Nishikigoi International* — the word koi comes from a shortening of *nishikigoi*. His book *Nishikigoi — Still Waters*, a photographic record of koi and its culture, will be published in June. Another magazine for enthusiasts, *Koi Carp*, has a circulation of about 35,000. But Barry Goodwin, whose book *The Enigma of Koi* was published this week, reckons the number of enthusiasts in Britain is treble that.

"I go to koi shows all over the country and for every person I talk to about koi carp, I meet another two who don't know about the magazine but are still very interested in the fish," he says. He has 65 koi, most kept in a 6ft deep, 8,000-gallon pond in his garden. The fish he buys are usually about 2½ in long and cost £12 each. The most he has ever spent is £350 for one 18in long.



Mick and Debbie Herbert bought their koi carp for under £100 each

"You need room for them to swim around because if they don't get enough exercise, or if they are not fed properly, they will end up looking like a rugby ball," he says. His fish exist on a diet of koi food supplemented by cockles and shrimps collected by a friend from Grimsby.

During the winter the koi's metabolism slows down and, Mr Goodwin says, the fish will not digest food under about 43°F. Some owners cover their ponds in winter or keep the water slightly heated. "Without covering and heating, koi can go for

some months without food but it affects their health. By spring they will have lost a lot of weight and will get pretty run-down. My advice is to cover ponds during the worst of the weather. It is not advisable to allow the water to go below 35°F," he says.

His fish have a "natural winter" until the end of January and then he heats the water gradually to 53°F. This process shortens the winter for the koi and maintains a constant water temperature in the fluctuating climate of early spring. The cost of filtered pools is about £2,000, although they can cost up to £10,000.

Despite the koi carp's association with the rich and famous (Jim Davidson, Pete Waterman and Freddie Mercury have all kept them), looking after these fish can be a satisfying hobby for anyone.

"They're wonderful to be with after a stressful day at work: they're so peaceful and beautiful to look at. 'Living jewels' is what we call them in the koi fraternity," Debbie Herbert says. She and her husband, Mick, have kept koi for the past five years. Last year they built a 4,000-gallon

pool in their garden with a new water filtration system to replace a pond that was roughly a tenth of the size.

This will allow more space for their family of koi to grow. One of the 11 varieties the Herberts keep, a Chagoi, doubled in size to 12 inches within 16 weeks. Two-foot fish are commonplace and the word is that in Japan, where koi are much revered creatures, the equivalent of £3 million has been offered to any person who manages to breed a metre-long specimen of any of the three top varieties: Kohaku, Sanke and Showa.

Most of the Herberts' fish were bought for under £100 each and they feed them, little and often, on a diet of prepared koi food, with the occasional treat of prawns, orange segments, lettuce and chicken.

The Herberts are members of the British Koi Keepers Society and Mrs Herbert recommends that people taking up the hobby should join.

There are 13 varieties of koi in dazzling colours. The Kohaku is white with red and black patterns and the Showa is black with red and white markings. *Koi Carp* and *Nishikigoi International* both carry advertisements for dealers, or buyers should contact the British Koi Keepers Society which can put them in touch with their nearest breeder.

"When you are buying them make sure they look healthy — if they are, they will come racing up to you just in case there is food around," Mr Goodwin says. "They are extremely appealing pets, full of grace, sociable, peaceful and fascinating to watch."

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

A VET WRITES

Q Should I give green food to my Netherland dwarf rabbits (both neutered)? Some books say it causes bloat which can be fatal; others say small quantities are all right but not lettuce. But wild rabbits, who live on green food — including lettuce — thrive and multiply. Can you help?

A Rabbits are vegetarians and fermentation is part of their digestive process. But any sudden influx of lush greens upsets this process, causing bloat. Wild rabbits change their diet with the seasons and this happens slowly. Feed yours in the same way. The juice from a lettuce stalk contains an alkaloid related to morphine but a rabbit would have to eat several large lettuce heads before it became a drug victim and wind would get him first. Green food is a danger only when given on a basis of "feast one day, famine the next".

Q My children are fascinated by seeing monkeys in the zoo, but do these animals make good pets?

A No. Anyone keeping a monkey (except for marmosets) has to hold Dangerous Wild Animals Act Licence covering insurance, accommodation and security. All together this may cost well in excess of £100 per year. Monkeys are also gregarious animals and a solitary monkey has a miserable life. Often it vents his displeasure on his owner, becomes bad tempered and bites. A group of monkeys in a good zoo, with plenty of space, climbing frames and a caring keeper can have an acceptable life but they are still wild animals in captivity, not pets.

JAMES ALLCOCK
 Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, Pennington Street, London E1 9JN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

ADOPT ME

DIBBS is a white and black English bull terrier-cross bitch, who is playful, affectionate and devoted to people. She would make an excellent pet for a young couple or anyone without young children or other pets. Contact the RSPCA, Leybourne Animal Centre, 199 Castle Way, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent (01732 847237).

Dibbs is playful and affectionate

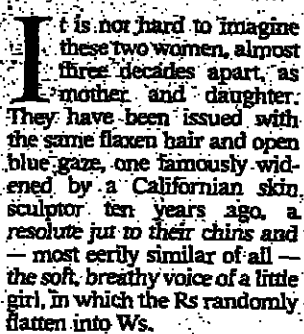
ANIMALS & ACCESSORIES

TEL: 0171 680 6122 FAX: 0171 782 7799

<p>GIFTS</p> <p>Stitch a Portrait of your Pet</p> <p>Cross stitch or needlepoint charts (colour or symbol) created from your own photograph. To discuss details, telephone Ann on 01905 381906 (see ad on p. 10)</p> <p>Box Tree Cottage Designs</p>	<p>CATS</p> <p>LOOKING FOR that special kitten? Call Cat-Leg for pet: 01773 345542</p> <p>DOGS</p> <p>10 Gold/Silver embroidered leather collars (collar or symbol) created from your own photograph. To discuss details, telephone Ann on 01905 381906 (see ad on p. 10)</p> <p>Box Tree Cottage Designs</p>	<p>MEMORIALS</p> <p>THE BEST RANGE OF PET MEMORIALS AVAILABLE</p> <p>Free colour brochure, please from £24.95. The Pet Memorial Company, FREEPOST H7 92, 58 New Cleveland Street, Hull HU8 7HD. Tel: (01482) 34332</p>	<p>HEALTH</p> <p>PROBLEM DOGS For behavioural consultation, please telephone: 0115 928 1670 for 28 min. Call 0115 928 1670</p> <p>PROBLEM DOGS For behavioural consultation, please telephone: 0115 928 1670 for 28 min. Call 0115 928 1670</p> <p>HOMEOPATHIC PRODUCTS</p> <p>ARTHROPEP: A combination of 12 herbs, 100% natural, 100% effective. For all types of arthritis, joint pain, muscle aches, sprains, strains, etc. £14.95. 49 Boulevard Road, Pinner, Middx. Tel: 0181 842 8811</p>	<p>DOES YOUR DOG find it increasingly difficult to get about? Is he more stiff than supple? Is he more irritable? He could be suffering from arthritis. If so, ARTHROPEP, the new health supplement rich in collagen, could be just what he needs. For details of how this exceptional product could help your dog, please write to: ARTHROPEP, 42 Piddens Hill, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 2BS. 01235 520833</p>	<p>PET ACCOMMODATION</p> <p>THE PENNALL HOTEL Tintagel, Cornwall. Small, homely run, located where nature dogs will be very welcome. Free of charge. Magnificent cliff top position giving wonderful views of National Trust coastline. Excellent home cooking. All rooms with TV. En-suite/most two views. Summer breakfast from £30.00 per night. 85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/9</p>
---	--	--	--	--	--

Bare bones of a remarkable family saga

Ginny Dougary talks to Fay Weldon and her niece, novelist Rachel Morris, about their colourful relations



Fay Weldon, author of *The Book of David* and *The Book of David*.

It is not hard to imagine these two women, almost three decades apart, as mother and daughter. They have been issued with the same flaxen hair and open blue gaze, one famously widened by a Californian skin, sculptor ten years ago, a resolute jut to their chins and — most eerily similar of all — the soft, breathy voice of a little girl, in which the Rs randomly flatten into Ws.

Since both women are writers, the older rather better known at this point than the younger, and much of our talk is about writing, one has the opportunity to be charmed by this impediment at regular intervals.

Fay Weldon is, in fact, Rachel Morris's aunt. It was Fay's mother who became a surrogate mother to Rachel and her two brothers when their own died, bringing up this new second family on very little money and in an atmosphere of steely asceticism in most unhomey Essex. Rachel was 11 when Jane Morris, her mother — an unsung poet — died of cancer. Her father, Guido, a founding member of various artistic movements in 1950s St Ives, had disappeared when she was four.

Fay was the breadwinner, graduating from coining successful advertising slogans — memorably, "Go to work on an egg" — to writing successful novels, providing her niece and nephews with exotic food parcels from London.

It is somewhat surprising to discover that Fay's success and the largesse with which she dispensed its spoils were frowned upon by the rest of her family — her mother, in particular. "My mother was very frugal. Still is. So these comfortable things were seen as a sign of terrible decadence," she says insouciantly. "I was brought up with an apple core for a bedside table. With a curtain put in front of it to make it look nice. But it was still an apple core."

So you rebelled against that? "Of course," she shrugs. "And to a major extent," Rachel adds, grinning. "Well, I've been a major spender ever since," Fay says.

I wonder how Fay viewed her older sister's children. Did their status as orphans change the nature of her relationship with them? I remember Rachel telling me, when we were friends at university in the late 1970s, that she viewed Fay as an older, much-to-be-admired sister. Were these feelings

reciprocal? "No," Fay says. "I felt like their mother who had farmed them out to my mother [who had left her husband 20 years previously]. I did feel that along with my four sons [she had the last one when she was 46] that I had these seven children — the whole thing of having to keep everybody. Although the state did a lot of it, I was really having to keep this lot."

Fay and Rachel come from a long line of what Rachel describes as jobbing writers. Fay's maternal grandfather, Edgar Jepson, was a marvelous, dandyish-sounding character who moved in the same literary circles as H.G. Wells, Bernard Shaw and Walter de la Mare, founded a literary magazine, *The English Review*, with Ford Madox Ford and Joseph Conrad, and was a bestselling writer of detective novels in the 1920s and 1930s. He was also a man given to allowing monumental deci-

sions to be made on the strength of a whim — one of which was the education of his daughter. She was four and in tears because she was about to be sent to nursery school, when "Edgar, who didn't like to be disturbed, came down in his silk dressing-gown with his cigarette holder and said, 'Why is little Margaret making that noise?' When he was told, he asked her, 'Do you want to go to school, Margaret?'" Fay recounts. "And she said, 'No' — and so she never went after that. My mother said that at the time she knew it was a major life decision, and the wrong one."

"Little Margaret" was Margaret Birkinshaw, who grew up to write romantic fiction — which she heartily disapproved of, masking her identity under the wild *nom de plume* Pearl Bellair — and the odd serious novel, the proceeds of which helped to support her first and second families. Her brother, Selwyn Jepson, was a prolific writer of detective novels. "He was handsome and had many wives, and used to fly in the Second World War," Rachel recalls. "He lived in great style and was very definitely wicked."

One would be hard-pushed to find a more colourful anti-hero in fiction than Rachel's father: He was the archetypal tortured artist willing to sacrifice himself, and all those who came into his orbit, to his art.

Perhaps it is a generational difference, perhaps it is in the nature of the bond — the expectation from a child that the parent will not let you down — but Fay can certainly talk about Guido with a great deal more equanimity than his daughter. Although when the Tate Gallery in St Ives acknowledged his contribution to the fine art of postwar hand-printing with a posthumous exhibition in 1995, not one member of his family made the pilgrimage to Cornwall.

Not long ago, Rachel was confounded to discover that her father and mother had continued to communicate and, indeed, meet up with each other for years after his "disappearance". The couple wrote to each other three times a week, letters that never arrived on the home doorstep but were sent to the mother's workplace. "Jane didn't like people knowing what was going on," Fay recalls. "But it was fairly obvious, because suddenly Benjamin [Rachel's younger brother] appeared." Secrets and lies take root in even the most non-conformist families.

Guido was certainly an artist at inventing his life. Even his name was an invention to mask the banality of his background — born to a vicar and christened Douglas. He left that family behind but, as

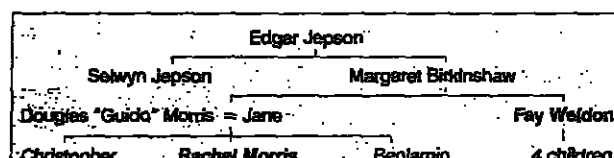


Fay Weldon and her niece Rachel Morris. During Rachel's frugal childhood in Essex, her aunt would send exotic food parcels from London

Fay points out, "he left many families behind". A few years ago, a half-brother turned up from Mexico who looked exactly like the two brothers Rachel knew about.

How are we to take the tortured artist's most notable act of defiance — taking a job as a guard on the London Underground, where Rachel eventually tracked him down when she was 16? He was probably the only guard on the Underground, as she says, who could read Latin, Greek and Hebrew. Fay recalls hearing him over the public address system at Victoria, "with his amazing mellifluous cathedral voice. And he enunciated all the stations absolutely perfectly."

"Only a man would make that kind of gesture," Rachel says. "It was a kind of 'Oh my God, the world does not appreciate me — I will sacrifice myself.' Fay says it more specific than that: "See where your mother, Jane, and Gran [Fay's mother] have driven me — determined that I should pay them some money for these starving children." Rachel says, with some feeling: "But it was a stupid gesture." "It was a wonderful gesture," her aunt insists. "It



was a crazy gesture, but it worked: 'Look what you have reduced me to — now you see'."

Fay remembers him coming back to feed the children with a bag of bones — "There's a lot of nourishment in these things," a story Rachel has not heard before. "Oh, my poor mother," she says.

Does it make her angry? She says it makes her feel very feminist. Her mother may have died of cancer, but what killed her, Rachel believes, was her pre-feminist values — the artist's muse as a living sacrifice. Jane the good girl. Fay the bad girl. One dead, the other alive. "It is just like a novel," Rachel says, sadly. "Fay decided she wouldn't be a victim of the values that killed my mother, but she would change them — and she survived."

To the onlooker, there is a certain irony that Guido's willful rejection of success — thereby convincing himself that the purity of his artistic

vision was unsullied by materialistic goals — was more in keeping with the culture of the family he had walked away from than some of the members who remained. "If you are successful you are by definition no good" — I think he believed that," Fay says. "And I certainly got that from this family."

Rachel says: "It's this ascetic thing again, which runs in the family. In some ways, Gran and Guido were alike." "And Ron [Fay's ex-husband] and my mother were incredibly alike," Fay chimes in. "Sometimes I thought I had just married my mother."

So, Fay, has the family accused you of selling out? "Oh yes," she says. "They still do. Non-stop. All my life." It's the television scripts, of course, but also the fact that she is so successful. "I don't think it's bad," she says. "There's a degree to which one would probably have sold out completely — because it's very easy to believe that this is the only world."

The great thing about these family situations is that there is a check, where you have to hold up a sort of mirror to yourself. And if you get too hooked on writing for television, you can think that's the only thing there is — and it's not. And, it must be said, if you think terribly well of yourself, that's not a good idea either.

The other thing is that I think I'm fortunate to have been a woman, because one wasn't able to do what the men did — what Guido did — and remove oneself from the necessities of everyday life: all your moral and emotional responsibilities. You couldn't because the children insist that you stay this human being. But this certainly didn't diminish your work in any way. It enriched it."

It's not often that one gets a chance to see that even very grown-up, well-known women can still feel keenly their mother's disapproval. At the end of our meeting, just before Fay leaves to go shopping, Rachel turns to her aunt and says, "It's a funny thing, family perspective. When we were growing up, it was always, 'The Amazing Fay' — especially from Gran. But I don't expect she ever told you that."

● Ella and the Mothers, the new novel by Rachel Morris (Sceptre Hardback, £14.99).

● Fay Weldon is making a new series for Channel 4, *Big Women*, about the rise and fall of a feminist publishing company.

Ruth Gledhill joins members of a Benedictine order on retreat in north London

Monks in a material world



Dom Anthony, Fr Andrew, Dom Placid

DRESSED in a blue anorak and jeans, a rucksack on his back and scallap strung around his neck, he did not look like a priest. Parishioners scarcely blinked as he pushed his bicycle into the back of the church and then sat, head bowed, on a chair near the front. This was the Rev Andrew Proud, Church of England rector of East Barnet in Hertfordshire, come for a blessing from the monks at the Roman Catholic Benedictine centre for spirituality in Cockfosters, north London.

The scallap shell indicated that Fr Proud was setting off on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, the shrine of the apostle St James in northwest Spain which was a popular pilgrimage destination in the Middle Ages and is in the throes of revival.

Like St James's shrine, the Benedictine centre, which offers retreats, spiritual workshops and contemplation courses, is experiencing a surge in demand from across the ecumenical spectrum.

The 13 Benedictine monks, with their motto *laborare et orare* (to work and pray), and the community of oblates, are meeting the needs of growing numbers of retreatants, as well as the 1,200 Catholics who attend the five Saturday night and Sunday masses in the Cockfosters parish church, an adjunct to the monastery and part of the centre.

We were at a weekday mass where one of the monks, Dom Anthony, was about to send Fr Andrew off on his pilgrimage with the blessing of the

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★

PRIOR: Dom Placid Meylink OSB

ARCHITECTURE: Plain, white 1930's art deco. ★★

SERMON: Dom Anthony delivered a homily on the meaning of pilgrimage. ★★

MUSIC: We sang psalms together. ★★

LITURGY: The modern Catholic rite. ★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Retreatants enjoy lunch in silence with the monastic community. ★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Laborians at crans. ★★

community. "As for God, His ways are perfect: the word of the Lord, purest gold," we sang from Psalm 17 before the confession and a reading from Acts. There was another psalm, the gospel and the Creed.

Dom Anthony, the director of the centre, preached on the symbolism of pilgrimage. Fr Andrew, 43, whose wife Janice, a biologist specialising in plant research, was beside him, had been a volunteer for the centre's pilgrimage team and had taken a sabbatical from his Anglican ministry to go across the French Pyrenees and into to Spain.

"What is the difference between a pilgrimage and a holiday?" asked Dom Anthony. "There is a big



Dom Anthony, Fr Andrew, Dom Placid

difference. A holiday is a social occasion, and very necessary in this stressful world of ours. A pilgrimage is more of a spiritual undertaking. It is a privileged moment in the life of an individual when we spend some time seeking the one who calls to us to live in His presence.

"It is at this time that we as individuals seek answers to the questions that lie within our hearts. It is a time of quiet, a time of grace, a time to be wholly focused in on God and on His word."

He went on to give Fr Andrew his official blessing. "My dear brother, as you set out you should remind yourself of the reasons for your resolve to go on this holy pilgrimage,"

he said. "The place you intend to visit is a monument to the devotion of the people of God." As indeed is the centre itself.

"In the old days monks went into the desert: these days the desert is in the city," reads an appeal brochure from a couple of years ago. "We are monks living in a big city. That represents a big challenge to us."

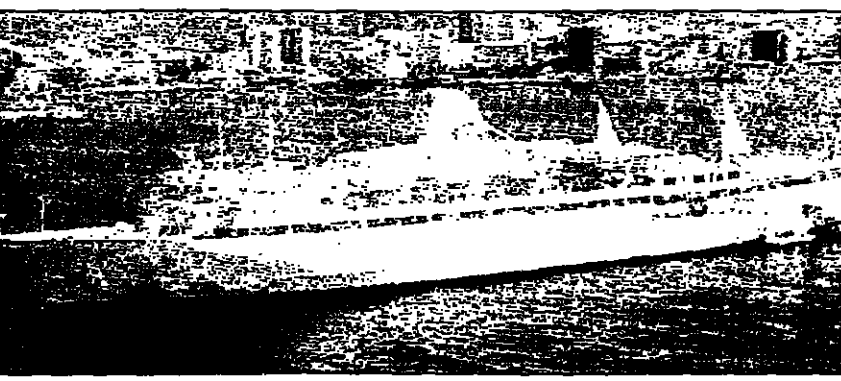
The monks have deliberately chosen an urban setting to present the secular world around them with a chance to find inner peace and an alternative to the materialist struggle. But they are not aloof from the torment of the world. In his latest newsletter the prior, Dom Placid, a Dutchman, asks: "Is it possible to be both British and European?" He goes on to confess that, try as hard as he could, he has never succeeded in becoming British.

"What is worse, I have not even attempted it, because I have my own culture, traditions, language and mentality," he says. He loves England and hopes to stay here, but will die a Dutchman. "My advice to you is: be true to yourself. Don't try to be a Dutchman, you will never succeed," he concludes.

I left feeling closer to God, and happily armed with some useful new Benedictine spiritual weaponry, to be brought into play when an argument over the single European currency surfaces, or at the very least, on the next occasion someone asks me to go Dutch in a bar.

● Benedictine Centre for Spirituality, Church and Monastery of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, London NW4 4HE (0181-449 2499).

Join our gardening cruise to Madeira and the Canaries - from only £699



- 13 nights on the Black Prince
- Free National Express from various UK mainland pick-up points
- Free flights from Dublin and Belfast
- VICTORIA TRAVEL, the gardening cruise specialist, has arranged a special package for *Times* readers, departing from Dover on the Black Prince on Sunday, November 23, 1997. The *Times* party on the 13-night cruise to Madeira and the Canaries will be led by Stephen Anderson, the gardening correspondent of *The Times*, and Ashley Stephenson, gardening expert.
- For bookings made by the end of July, prices start at £699 per person for a three berth cabin. Port charges, insurance, drinks and gratuities are extra. There are excellent restaurant, leisure and entertainment facilities on board the Black Prince which can carry 440 passengers.
- National Express pickers from various UK mainland pick-up points to Dover are free. Readers in Ireland can enjoy free flights from Belfast and Dublin. For car drivers, there is free parking at Dover, and Victoria Travel can arrange subsidised overnight hotel rates.
- You don't have to be a keen gardener to enjoy this voyage which includes visits to Lisbon, Gibraltar, and Tenerife. One of the highlights of the cruise will be the time spent on the wonderful island of Madeira. The first 40 people to book will receive free afternoon tea at the famous Reids hotel.

YOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Departures Dover at 5pm on Sunday 23 November, 1997. Day 2: Cruising. Day 3: Visit Vigo, the departure point of the Spanish Armada. Day 4: Visit Lisbon, the vibrant capital of Portugal. Day 5: Spend the afternoon in Gibraltar. Day 6: Cruising. Day 7: Visit Las Palmas, the capital of Gran Canaria. Day 8: Spend the day in Tenerife. Day 9: arrive at Funchal, the capital of Madeira at 4pm. Day 10: depart from Funchal at 1pm. Day 11: Cruising. Day 12: Visit La Coruna, in the Spanish province of Galicia. Day 13: Cruising. Day 14: arrive back in Dover.

Send coupon to: Victoria Travel Service Limited, 30 Hewell Road, Barnet Green, Birmingham, B45 8NE. ABTA 78124.

Times Cruise Offer

Please send me information.

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms): _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Day Cruise: ☐

If you do not wish to receive this information, please tick this box. If you do wish to receive this information, please tick this box. This is a special offer. Victoria Travel Service Limited is a company. Independent of Times Newspapers Limited.

FOR BOOKING DETAILS CALL VICTORIA TRAVEL ON 0121-445 5656

CHECK-IN

Because we think the world of you ...

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

one way	return	one way	return	one way	return
SYDNEY £333	£500*	NEW YORK £122	£189	MEXICO CITY £251	£374
PERTH £329	£500	BOSTON £149	£216	LIHA £319	£534
CARIBS £333	£500	FLORIDA £165	£245	INDIA £198	£329
AUCKLAND £339	£500	LOS ANGELES £221	£285	JO'BURG £265	£329
BANGKOK £339	£500	SAN FRANCISCO £221	£286	CAPE TOWN £297	£329
HONG KONG £319	£459	DENVER £278	£286	HARARE £287	£329
SINGAPORE £242	£399	TORONTO £157	£199	NAIROBI £197	£289
BALI £249	£418	VANCOUVER £282	£348	DUBAI £182	£224
PEKING £251	£418	CARIBBEAN £242	£242	CAIRO £122	£204
TOKYO £275	£495			AROUND THE WORLD £583	

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from
AUSTRALIA £36 • USA £31 • AFRICA £31 • PACIFIC £40 • ASIA £27
USA CAR HIRE FROM £12 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR WORLDWIDE OR NORTH AMERICA TAILORMADE BROCHURE

All our travel centres are open Mon-Sat 9.30am - Thurs 9.30pm • Sun 10.00am

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

AUSTRALIA FROM £500 RETURN PER PERSON
BASED ON 2 PEOPLE TRAVELLING. MUST BOOK BY 15 MAY
DUBAI FROM £224 RETURN

TRAILFINDERS DOES NOT IMPOSE CHARGES ON CREDIT CARDS

worldwide attention to detail

For the real lowdown on worldwide travel, Trailfinders is your one stop travel shop.
Trailfinders offers more low cost flights to more destinations than anyone. Experts in airfares since 1970, we can tailor-make your very own package with up to 65% discount on hotels and car hire worldwide.

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE NEW TRAILFINDERS MAGAZINE CALL 0171 938 3086 ANYTIME

42-50 Ears Court Road • LONDON W8 6FT
Long Haul Travel: 0171-938 3366
194 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 7RG
Long Haul Travel: 0171-938 3444
First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444
215 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 6BG
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400
22-24 The Priory Queensway • BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS
Worldwide Travel: 0121-226 1234
48 Corn Street • BRISTOL BS1 1HO
Worldwide Travel: 0117-929 8006
254-264 Southfield Street • GLASGOW G2 3EH
Worldwide Travel: 0141-363 2224
50 Deansgate • MANCHESTER M3 2FF
Worldwide Travel: 0161-839 6969
First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

... people think the world of us!

FLIGHT BOOKER
travelling freestyle

Prices from
New York £222
Boston £222
Florida £249
California £279
Chicago £222
Toronto £260

Prices from
Bangkok £369
Singapore £410
Hong Kong £480
Jo'burg £329
Nairobi £269
India £335

2 receive £30 off any of our hotels or tours from our worldwide brochure
Brochure Hotline: 01271 336027

Worldwide 0171 757 2444
Americas & Europe 0171 757 2000
Australia & NZ 0171 757 2468
First & Business Class 0171 757 2500

Best Value: Air Fares - Car Hire - Hotels - Insurance
All fares are return flights, subject to availability, seasonal & regional supplements, i.e. surcharges & taxes where applicable
ATOL 2562 IATA
Gatwick 01293 568 300
Glasgow 0141 204 1919
GUARANTEED LOWEST AIRFARES ON SCHEDULED AIRLINES
OPEN 7 DAYS

Australia New Zealand

Top scheduled airlines.
Best stopover choice - Far East, USA & more.
Itineraries tailored to your exact wishes.
Car & campervan hire, air rail & coach passes.
Accommodation from budget to luxury.

AUSTRALIA FARES FROM £500
NEW ZEALAND FARES FROM £653
RETURN

01420-88724 0171-497 0515 0171-287 5556

TRAVELBAG
OFFICIALLY APPOINTED LOWFARES AGENT

OPEN 7 DAYS 12 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1BN
373-375 The Strand, London WC2R 0JF
52 Regent Street, London, W1R 6DX

PLATINUM TRAVEL

ADVENTURE TRAVEL AND FLIGHTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

CURRENT BEST BUYS

Special Offer
Hong Kong
£425 Return
Depart any time up to 30 June

0171 937 5122 0171 937 2654

USA AND CANADA

New York from £179
Boston from £199
Chicago from £222
Philadelphia from £225
Washington from £225
Orlando from £231
Miami from £263
Seattle from £263
San Francisco from £263
Los Angeles from £263
Dallas from £268

Toronto from £228
Montreal from £228
Calgary from £307
Vancouver from £307

SPECIAL OFFER
CHICAGO £222

0990 329 326

USA Canada

OUT NOW

Pop in and see us today, centrally located in Piccadilly Circus

01420-88880 or 0171-287 5558

AMERICAN CONCORDE SPECIALS

4 NIGHT NEW YORK
PACKAGE INCLUDING HOTELS... £2498

7 NIGHT BARRADOS
PACKAGE INCLUDING HOTELS... £2095

GO AMERICAN
BUSINESS CLASS 0171 637 4107

TRAVEL INSURANCE

£10 OFF every policy sold

01243 787835

U.S. AIRWAYS

OVER 200 DIFFERENT DESTINATIONS

NEW YORK £220
BOSTON £220
CHICAGO £220
ATLANTA £220
DALLAS £220

0171 828 1137

MONUMENT TRAVEL

Bucket Shop Prices - High Street Service

Spain £59
Greece £59
Turkey £59
Cyprus £59
USA £199
Canada £199
Italy £199

01476 404747

Far East

HONG KONG
THAILAND
MALAYSIA
SINGAPORE
INDIA

01420-88880 or 0171-287 5558

AMERICAN CONCORDE SPECIALS

4 NIGHT NEW YORK
PACKAGE INCLUDING HOTELS... £2498

7 NIGHT BARRADOS
PACKAGE INCLUDING HOTELS... £2095

GO AMERICAN
BUSINESS CLASS 0171 637 4107

TRAVEL INSURANCE

£10 OFF every policy sold

01243 787835

LISBON FOR LESS

£119

0345 46 47 48

COPENHAGEN

FROM £123 RTN

Our fares are ridiculously small.

AMSTERDAM from £59 return
BELFAST from £65 return
BERGEN from £145 return
BRUSSELS from £59 return
COLOGNE from £107 return
DUBLIN from £69 return
EDINBURGH from £62 return
FRANKFURT from £128 return
GLASGOW from £62 return
GOTHENBURG from £205 return
NICE from £149 return
OSLO from £163 return
PALMA from £209 return
PARIS from £59 return
PRAGUE from £164 return
ROME from £139 return
ZURICH from £59 return

0345 554554

NEW YORK £189
ORLANDO £199
CALIFORNIA £249

ATLANTA £229
BOSTON £219
CHICAGO £249
DETROIT £229
DENVER £249
DALLAS £249
HOUSTON £249
LAS VEGAS £249
MIAMI £249
MINNEAPOLIS £249
NEW ORLEANS £249
PHILADELPHIA £249
PHOENIX £249
SALT LAKE £249

0171 722 0202

WORLDWIDE TRAVEL INSURANCE

SAVE ON ANNUAL, SINGLE TRIP, LONG STAY, SKI & CAR HIRE LIABILITY TOP-UP

01732 773366

Direct Travel Insurance

Worldwide Annual Multi-Trip £99
UK's best single trip £5.99
USA £14.99
SKI £11.99

01903 893333

AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND & ROUND THE WORLD

London - Hong Kong - Australia £755

0171 734 7447

benz

NEW YORK £180
HONG KONG £440

0171 462 0000

EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE

01273 700737

AIRLINK

0171-713-7770

CAPITAL FLIGHTS

0171 208 4000

FLIGHTS

0990 329704

FARESAVERS

01476 592095

NEXUS TRAVEL

0117 9832555

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

0171 388 6211

AFRICA

0171 388 6211

CRUISE & SAIL ABROAD

0171 388 6211

PLATINUM TRAVEL

ADVENTURE TRAVEL AND FLIGHTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

CURRENT BEST BUYS

Special Offer
Hong Kong
£425 Return
Depart any time up to 30 June

0171 937 5122 0171 937 2654

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

FLORIDA £249
CALIFORNIA £279
SYDNEY £569

U.S. AIRWAYS

OVER 200 DIFFERENT DESTINATIONS

NEW YORK £220
BOSTON £220
CHICAGO £220
ATLANTA £220
DALLAS £220

0171 828 1137

LISBON FOR LESS

£119

0345 46 47 48

FARESAVERS

01476 592095

NEXUS TRAVEL

0117 9832555

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

0171 388 6211

AFRICA

0171 388 6211

CRUISE & SAIL ABROAD

0171 388 6211



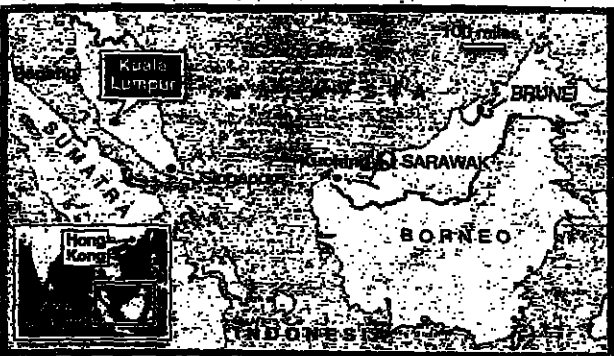
Raising
a glass
or two in
Rioja

Spain - 20

THE TIMES travel

A castle
dreamier
than
Disney

Bavaria - 18



Dream of drumming raindrops

Despite the tearaway boom of
Mammon and the mobile,
Malaysia's culture still excites

Over-impressed, perhaps, by watching a little French film called *The Scent of the Green Papaya*, I went to Malaysia hoping to see trim, composed serving girls cooking at the squat on a tropic night; oils in woks sizzling over fierce fires, the drumming of rain on the corrugated roof of the kitchen. This, I thought, would all be peaceful and sweet, a solace. What I found in Kuala Lumpur was an overblown, scattered former colonial city in which there were occasional bastions of charm from the pre-concrete and steel age. Wherever you wanted to go was miles away and taxi drivers seemed to have learnt their trade in the New York barrios.

Shopping in the working-class Chinese enclaves was fun. Eating, tremendous. It follows the ethnic composition of the country: Chinese, Indian or Malay (the last something of a racial jumble). The Malay are as the Victorian British described them: nature's gentlemen, but even the very intelligent among them are faintly hopeless. It may be the lack of aggression. The great thing, though, is that they are more than prepared to discuss the matter. Their Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Muhammad, writes and speaks of nothing else. In the company of his newspaper articles and speeches, I whiled away happy hours brooding over the Thatcherite dilemma of a leader who is trying to insist that his people are the greatest on earth while exhorting them for fecklessness.

The food, whatever its provenance, requires courage. I couldn't see the point sitting in a smart restaurant indoors when there was much more drama to watch from pavement cafés, whose standards of hygiene do not bear inspection. The Asian boulevardier is not posing, in the manner of

an Italian or a Frenchman, he is slipping out to eat because the till or the bouncer's sheet no longer call him.

Somehow, on my first night, I selected one marginally less dirty eating place than the rest and had a wan fan soup to die for. Chinese men, seated six to a table, shouted into mobile phones, ignoring their dining companions. They looked well, as well as prosperous, and I felt like eating their sort of food.

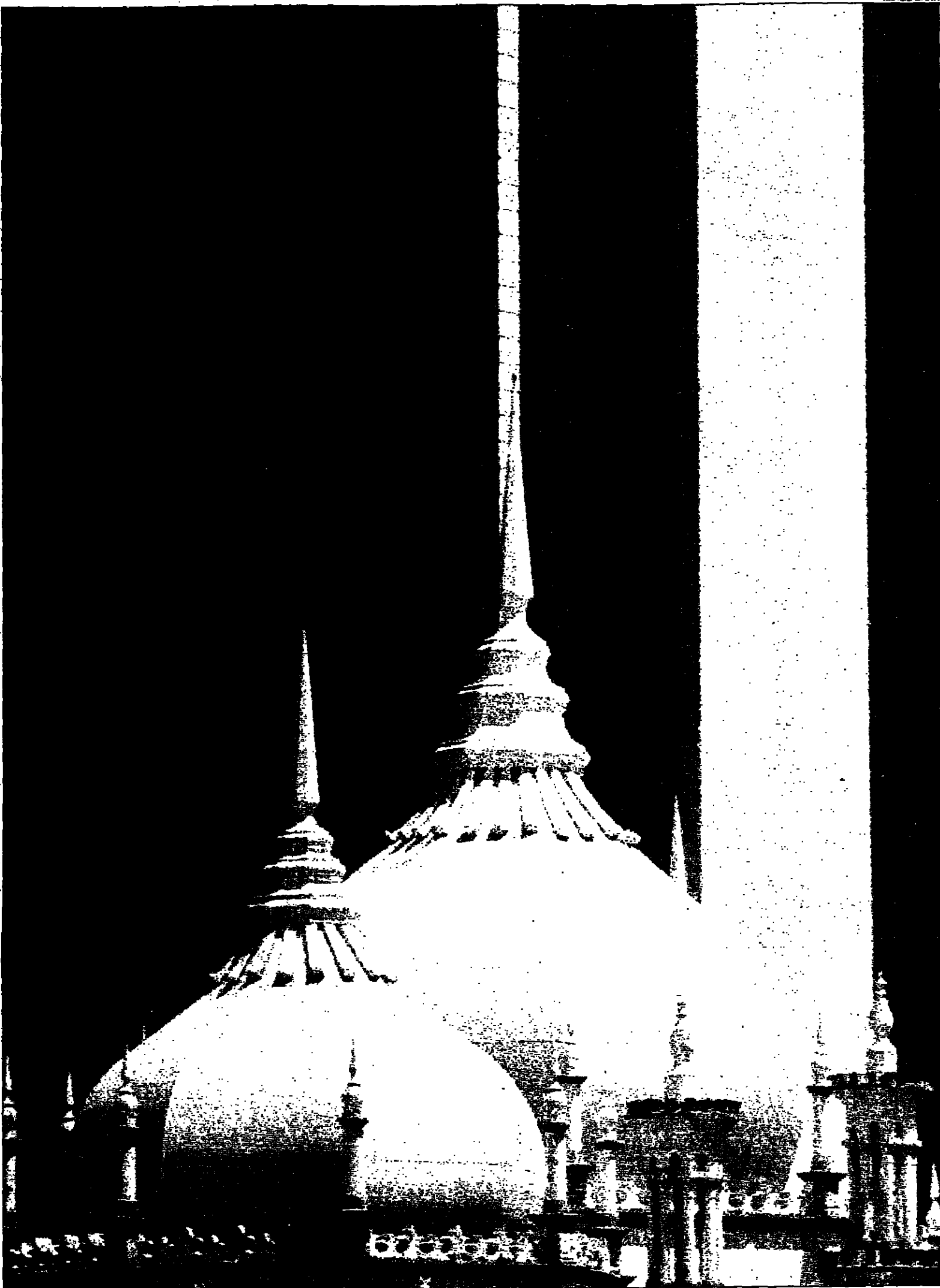
It was midnight, and the air was thick with a background of drains and the sound of deals being struck. I studiously ignored the chicken's foot in my stew, and wondered why the only English words on the menu were "Fish head".

The grime nagged at me, and my principle thereafter became to use only eating places where there was a microwave oven, and to have the food (merely eaten at a tropical room temperature) heated through till it steamed.

The simplest way to enjoy yourself in Kuala Lumpur seems to be to get to Chinatown. The only sadness is that, as a tourist, you are expected. This has its compensations, but even so the eating remains hair-raising. I found the presence of strong fluorescent light tended to indicate a place which was likely to be cleanish, as though people prepared to be seen were more likely to be houseproud.

Here I met nothing but matter-of-fact kindness from anyone involved in bringing me faintly recognisable food, even though the requirement that it be hot probably struck them as comical, because they were confident it would be delicious.

A week or so later I visited Kuching, in Sarawak on the vast island of Borneo. It was what a provincial centre ought to be. Thriving and humming,



In Kuala Lumpur, once mighty mosques are now dwarfed by soaring office buildings, a reflection of Malaysia's progress from a colonial past

but far more manageable in scale than Kuala Lumpur. The Kuching river slides through the town, seeming almost more mud than water. On the prompting of a local policeman I had met, I rented

a water-taxi for an afternoon, idling among fishermen and finally shamelessly gawping at one man as he sauntered out of his house down to the river for a wash among his moored canoes. My boatman then headed downstream to pooter among the comically scruffy cargo ships of the timber port. The crewmen evinced no obvious sign of caring that what their lives had gained in the happy-go-lucky they had enjoyed was lost in privacy. Washing, sleeping and eating went on all about us.

During a rainstorm, time seemed to stand still: the downpour seemed to want to beat the river to a standstill. I was getting close to my dream. Kuching, in its homely way, offered a deal of culture. There is a really touching police museum at the toy fort built by the Brooke family, which founded modern Borneo. It is across the way from the Hilton hotel and reached by water taxi. The exhibits were evocative on the period of the British counter-insurgency operations in the 1960s.

Kuching also has the Sarawak State Museum — founded by the white raj — which has become, like the British Museum, a museum of museum-keeping. Its collection of stuffed snakes, including the human bones found in the stomach of one of them, is at the same time grim and funny.

I cruised among the filing cabinets in which dozens of drawers contain the stiff little corpses of thousands of birds, still recognisably glorious in their fading plumage, each like a tiny grand duchess exuding the scent of preservation. Any one of them would have topped off a mad hat beautifully.

Here in the museum it is easy to imagine Victorian ad-

venturers, fighting disease and tedium upriver, squandering their maturity in reliving boyhood pastimes among such exotic natural history and imagining themselves neither gin-sodden nor barking.

In the museum, too, is a beautifully preserved longhouse — a jungle home on stilts suitable for the original wild man of Borneo. And everyone you meet here claims to have a headhunter for a grandfather. One day someone, ashamed of the museum's quaintness, will seek to update it and blow its charm to smithereens.

I mostly ate indoors in Kuching, and was pleased to see that the manager at the Hilton had shown courage in banning mobile phones from the Chinese restaurant. Mind you, he said, it's impossible to ban mobiles from the disco: the young could not map out their night's galavanning without cellular networking.

The next stop was a beach resort on the island of Penang, where the guests seemed happy enough, though I thought it vulgar. It looked like a hot Burlins. I got so grand I eschewed the pool for swimming with day-tripper factory workers in the sea, and only really enjoyed the hotel's catamarans and my hand-some room.

Several faces I recognised from the hotel had the same idea: down to the village for a decent Chinese meal, or to a good Indian restaurant, where the food was about one twentieth of the price of that in the resort. No microwave at these places, but a spoon each of fish, lamb and beef curries, their sauces elbowing each other aside around the rice. Each day, the hotel's bus —

perhaps the most polluting vehicle on the island — took me into Georgetown. It is a city designed to enchant the tourist, partly because the Buddhists (let alone the Sikhs and Hindus) are extremely

colourful and their temples accessible and welcoming. In one I had my fortune told (it was appalling news), and made suitable propitiation by paying for a fragment of goldleaf to be applied to an

almost incredibly loud new statue to the "Laughing One". One morning, I visited a family house in a side street. It had a papaya tree in the garden. I rang the bell and the man of the house, a Chinese Catholic teacher, introduced me to his mother, Khoo Su Nin, who has devoted herself to chronicling the city's colonial architecture.

Such architecture comes in several forms, mainly the wildly overblown and mostly derelict mansions built by Chinese merchants before they discovered air conditioning and moved on, and the fine, terraced shop-houses — cool, dim, grandly panelled, these are houses in which the indoors and the outdoors are barely separated.

The mother and son I met had a servant girl, and I am almost sure that if I had been able to stay for supper, and it had rained, I would have been delivered exactly the dream I came in search of. Though they might not be prepared to play the parts I had assigned in my mind's eye, they had at least preserved the film set.

RICHARD NORTH

FACT FILE

■ Malaysia Airlines (0171-341 2020) flies from Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur twice a day (once a week via Dubai). Fares to KL and Penang (with stopover in KL) start at £594 to Kuching via KL. £638. There are direct flights between Kuching and Penang three times a week, costing £84 one-way.

■ Abercrombie & Kent (0171-730 9600) offers a two-week holiday to Malaysia from £1,430, including three nights in KL, seven nights in Penang and four nights' B&B at the Holiday Inn, Kuching.

■ Other tour operators include Far East Gateways (0161-445 4321) and the Malaysia Experience (0181-424 9549).

■ The author stayed at the Hotel Grand Continental in Kuala Lumpur (00 60 3 253 9333), where a double room costs £46 a night, including breakfast. In Chinatown, the Swiss-Inn (00 60 3 232 3333) charges from £32. At the Penang Mutiara Beach Resort (00 60 4 885 3828), a double room costs £100, including breakfast.

■ For travellers seeking architecture a heritage, Khoo Su Nin's guide, *Streets of George Town, Penang*, is invaluable (£14, made payable to Janus Print and Resources, 130 Armenian Street, 10200 Penang, Malaysia).

■ For further information call Malaysia Tourism on 0171-930 7932.

■ Reading: *The Travel Bookshop* (0171-229 5260) recommends *The Golden Chersonese*, by Isabella Bird (Oxford University Press, £11.95); *The Consul's File*, by Paul Theroux (Hamish Hamilton, £14.99); *Malaysia & Singapore Handbook*, (Footprint, £12.99).



Kids fly Free

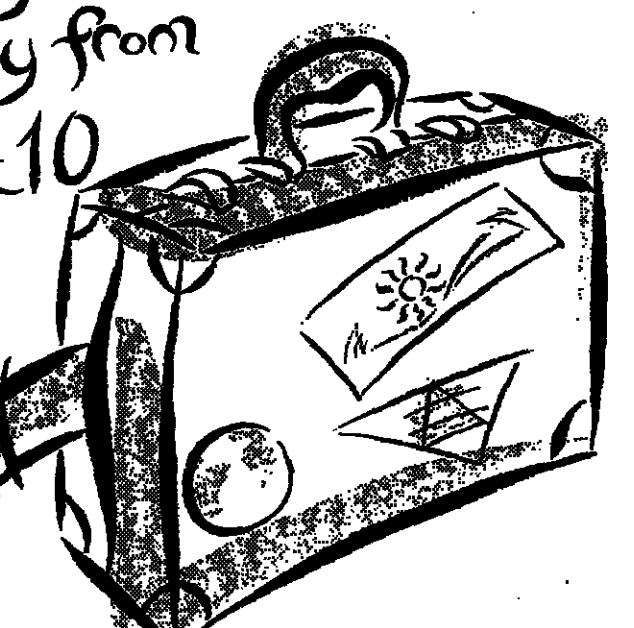
Not only do our all-inclusive holidays cover meals, sports, children's clubs and entertainment, but throughout June children from 2 to 5 years old can fly absolutely free to our family resort of Metaponto in Italy. A saving of £246 per child.

Club Med ☺ Start Living.

RESERVATIONS: 0171-581 1161 BROCHURE REQUEST: 01455 852 202

OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. ONE CHILD PER ADULT. LONDON DEPARTURES ONLY.

Take your kids away from £10



Not only do our all-inclusive holidays cover flights, meals, sports, children's clubs and entertainment, but children up to 6 years old pay from only £10 per week, at our top family resorts in Ibiza, Sardinia and Sicily, on selected dates in May and June.

Club Med ☺ Start Living.

RESERVATIONS: 0171-581 1161 BROCHURE REQUEST: 01455 852 202

OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT. PRICES PER CHILD, UP TO 2 YRS: £10, 3 YRS: £20, 4 YRS: £30, 5 YRS: £40. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. ONE CHILD PER ADULT. LONDON DEPARTURES ONLY.

Germany and Poland: From Ludwig II's romantic fantasies to looking for wolves in Bialowieski...

Excesses of a truly Teutonic order

Mentioning the war is fine in Bavaria. Local people do so routinely, as I discovered on a journey along the region's "Romantic Road". On my second day there, for example, the minibus pulled up outside the austere portals of Landsberg prison. The big attraction: Adolf Hitler did nine months here after his ill-fated putsch in 1923, famously penning *Mein Kampf*.

You cannot go inside (it is still a prison), but you can stand outside the gates, put right forefinger to upper lip, raise straightened left arm in the air and goose-step up and down. Or, as we did, you can tut-tut at the embarrassing insensitivity of a young man doing exactly that, while his laughing girlfriend took a photograph. Crass Brits on holiday? Not a bit of it, they were Torsten and Monika, a pair of medical students from Munich.

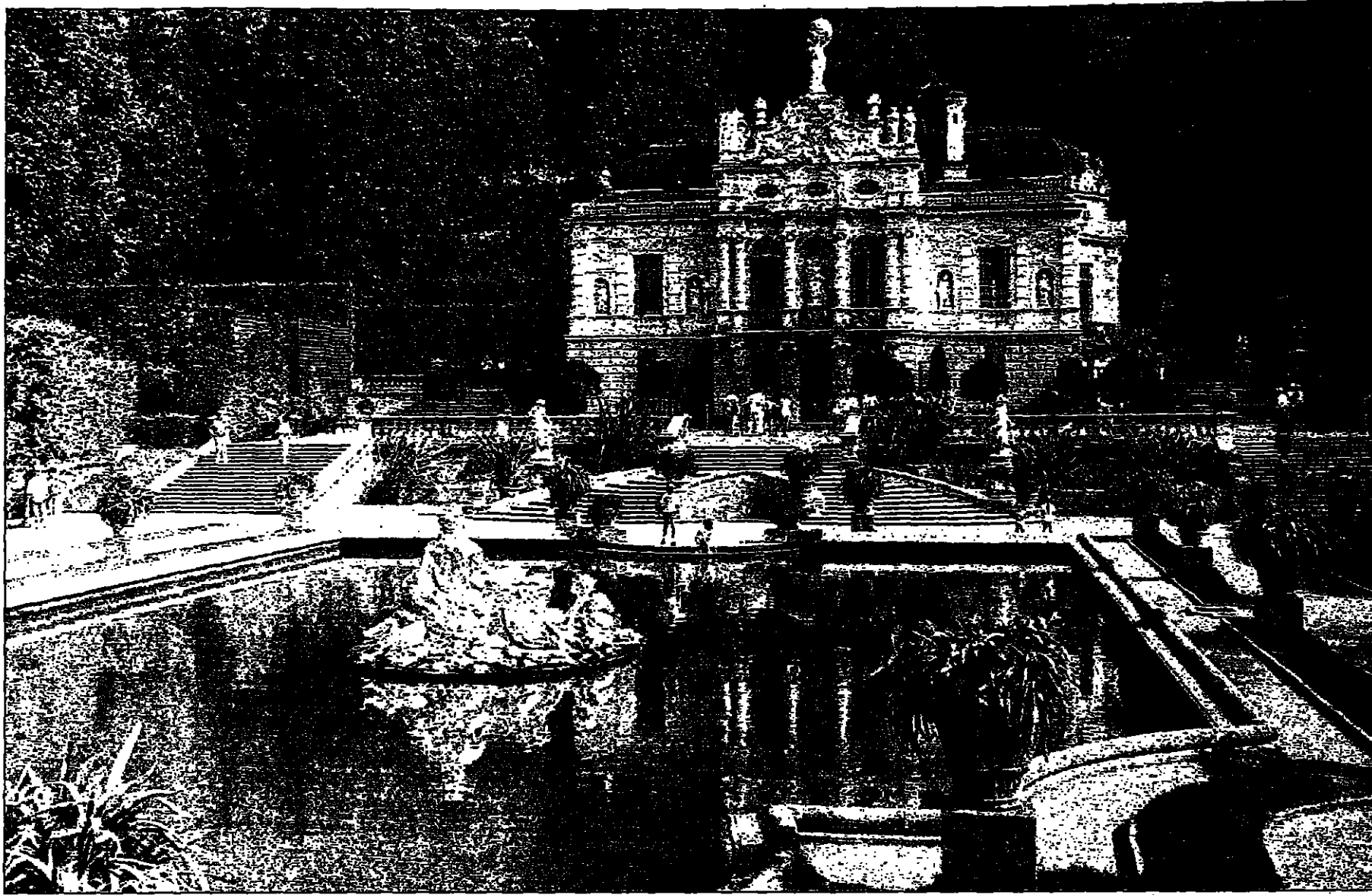
Our journey had started 40 kilometres up the road at the glorious, ancient city of Augsburg. We strolled along wide, leafy boulevards, wove through narrow back streets and along somnolent green canals, stumbled on squares with spouting fountains and gazed in awe at the soaring Gothic cathedral and imperious Renaissance Rathaus (town hall).

So immaculately restored are the old parts of Augsburg that it was hard to believe the city was virtually flattened in 1944 — "by British Airways", as Christina, our smiling Bavarian guide, assured us. Mozart's dad, the golfer Bernhard Langer and engineers Rudolf Diesel and Willy Messerschmitt all hail from the town and take their places on its heritage trail, although citizens did seem a little coy about discussing the latter.

Travellers have trodden the "Romantic Road" as a sort of mini-Grand Tour since the 18th century. We are not talking about lovey-dovey romance but the romance of the past — castles, kings and chivalry, all enhanced by the majestic mountain scenery.

The foothills of the Alps began as soon as we left Landsberg. We crossed rolling hills of vineyards as clouds teased us with glimpses of rocky peaks pricking the horizon.

As we climbed into upper Bavaria the air became sharper and the roads more twisty. We wound through villages of wooden houses with steeply sloping roofs, huddled round blue and white maypoles. Every window was adorned with a box, ablaze with pink geraniums. Then we dropped down to the valley of the turquoise River Lech, tracing its meandering bank till we rounded a corner, and there, high



Linderhof Castle was modelled along the lines of a French chateau by King Ludwig II of Bavaria; he was enjoying an infatuation with the Bourbons at the time.

above us, was a dazzling white castle floating on the clouds.

Anybody who has been to a Disney theme park will be familiar with Neuschwanstein. What I found utterly bizarre is that the Disney version is barely even a caricature of the castle it was modelled on. There it was, massive in scale, high on a craggy spur, its base hidden in swirling mist, and with Rapunzel-esque towers, spires and elongated turrets pointing skywards like intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Who needs 20th-century fantasies? Here was the most elaborate architectural parody ever built, a "medieval" wonder created according to the outlandish whims of King Ludwig II of Bavaria, and dwarfing the genuinely 12th-century Hohenschwangau fortress in

the valley below. Mad King Ludwig is a towering figure in Bavaria's history and psyche. He inherited the throne in 1864 at the age of 19 and set about peppering his kingdom with the real-life fruits of his fairy-tale dreams.

He stood 6ft 10in tall with long golden hair; he was gay; he had a demoniacal obsession with Richard Wagner, for whom he built palaces to perform in; he ran his court variously as a Chinese emperor or a medieval despot; he eschewed all the realities of state affairs; he emptied Bavaria's coffers and was eventually drowned in 1886 (almost certainly murdered) while swimming in a lake.

"So when did Ludwig visit Florida?" a woman with an unmistakable Texan accent asked loudly as we queued up with coachloads of

American and Japanese tourists, to be whisked through the castle from salon to throne room to bed chamber on what proved to be a disappointing tour. As with its Disney replica, Neuschwanstein's interior fails to live up to the edifice's glittering promise.

I preferred Linderhof Castle, modelled on a French chateau and built during a period of Ludwig's infatuation with the Bourbons. The fountains, formal garden, Baroque facade, riots of gilt stucco and chambers hung with tapestries are bewitching, although the vast grotto hewn out of a hillside and complete with false stalagmites, stalactites and a subterranean lake, is preposterous. The most incongruous thing, however, is this Renaissance palace's

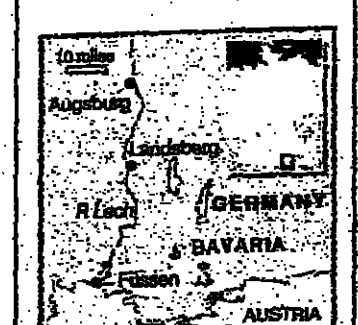
location amid the deeply Teutonic villages of upper Bavaria.

An old Bavaria hand I was travelling with seemed able to plot our co-ordinates in the region according to the fare in the nearest bierkeller. For instance, he declared us well and truly south of the "sausage equator" (otherwise known as the Danube), once the thick, fatty *wurst* gave way to spicy, finger-like specimens. Deeper into the Alps, grey sausages are served floating in hot water and contain brains and offal.

What is almost impossible to avoid are huge portions of meaty food, generally served by larger-than-life, lederhosen-clad waiters with beards and beer guts. They seemed to relish living up to their stereotype. The only alternative I could find to the unrelentingly

leaden diet was to order portions of wild mushrooms from the Black Forest — dainty *pfifferlingen* (chanterelles) and succulent *stein pilz* (peps). The only trouble was that it was automatically assumed that if I had eaten nothing more substantial than fungi, then I would certainly require a Helmut Kohl-sized slab of *Dampfnudeln* (steamed dumplings smothered in something sticky and sickly sweet) with a dollop of whipped cream. No wonder Bavarians need their health spas.

We finished our journey at Bad Tölz, a town full of people who were deadly earnest about every kind of therapeutic treatment from bathing in radiation-rich water to any of a dozen different kinds of massage. It clearly was not the sort of place you roll up at just for the fun of it. As Frau Schmidt explained when I



FACT FILE

■ The author travelled with the Bavarian Tourist Board.

■ Moswin Tours (0116-271 9922) arranges tours of the region. A week's fly-drive, including flights, car hire and B&B in two and three-star hotels, costs £550-£650 per person, based on two sharing. A week's escorted tour is £598, including flights, travel by coach and half-board accommodation.

■ Further information from the German National Tourist Office, Nightingale House, 65 Curzon Street, London W1Y 8NE (0171-493 0080).

■ The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *A Model Childhood*, by Christa Wolf (Vintage, £8.99). *The Fox in the Attic*, by Richard Hughes (Harvill, £8.99). *Ludwig II and His Dream Castles*, by Ludwig Mertke (Bruckmann Verlag, £13.35). *Bavaria*, by Rodney Bolt (Cadogan, £14.99).

poked a curious nose into the bath: "I used to come here free, every year, for treatments which our health service paid for."

Alas, state-paid holidays at spas are fast becoming a thing of the past and the European monetary union is blamed. The cut is one of the many austerity measures designed to ready Germany for the venture. Frau Schmidt explained. "It is a terrible shame. But I can accept it, because I am very, very European. What we have to do is embrace each other so close that we cannot hit each other. Not in this century or ever again."

I decided to take her literally just then, so I merely smiled, enjoying the Bavarian goodwill which was in the air.

MARTIN SYMINGTON

Australia



Return flight with Qantas and British Airways



and seven days free car hire* with Avis.

Australia from £849* with Trailfinders. It's a good deal whichever way you look at it.

We're also offering two free stopovers anywhere on the Qantas/British Airways network*—you can even fly round the world for an extra £50! What's more Trailfinders is giving away AU\$50 worth of travel vouchers each to spend in Australia. So now's the time to stop staring out of the window dreaming about Australia, and actually do something about it. All you have to do to take advantage of this brilliant offer is book by June 15th. And travel during November, or between January 21st and March 31st. For reservations and a brochure call Trailfinders on 0171 938 3939.

QANTAS

TRAILFINDERS

BRITISH AIRWAYS

*Based on two people travelling. Conditions apply. Prices include taxes. A supplement applies to our tour in Northern Territory. ATOL 1058 IATA, ABTA 03921. Trailfinders Ltd, 191 Rousham Road, London W8 7RS.

Led a merry dance around the forest with wolves

Life was focused into the narrow beam of my head-torch. The melting snow was falling from the dense cover of trees like rain and the cold was eating through my inadequate gloves. Yet the excitement of death was in the air as we followed the wolf prints around the remnants of the red deer.

"Try and find the skull or a hip bone, then we can work out its age," said Kevin Bush, who was leading our band of volunteers. "Oh, and some blood would be good as well."

Twelve of us had travelled with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers from the UK to this forest in eastern Poland. While all of our motives differed, there was a common magnet: the wolf. Bialowieski is home to the Mammal Research Institute, which has a long-term study under way on the forest's wolves. Two wolves are radio-collared, which enables researchers to monitor their travels and the packs they belong to without disturbing them. But it is labour-intensive work as 24-hour contact is needed for five days every month. This is where the volunteers step in.

Bialowieski is the last relic of primeval lowland forest that 10,000 years ago covered



European grey wolf at Poland's Bialowieski national park.

Europe. Its continued existence owes much to the tyrannical urges of the powers that have surged back and forth across this part of Poland. In each case, while they have been laying waste to all the surrounds, a fragment of perverted humanity has emerged to save the heart of this forest. Herman Goering was so impressed by the hunting here that he declared it sacrosanct. Before him, Polish kings and Russian tsars had also guaranteed its survival. Now the great, ancient cathedral-like trees are protected in a national park, which is listed as a Biosphere Reserve as well as a World Heritage site. Despite all this, its future is still debated by logging firms.

Before letting us loose, Mr Bush, a BCTV regional co-ordinator, ensured we had been trained to a standard enabling us to collect reliable data. The first, and most important lesson, was in the whereabouts of the border with Belorussia. The border guards are not amused by vagrant researchers, and the last volunteers who went astray had to be rescued with a large number of bottles of vodka.

A thorough training in map and compass skills was given among the snow-covered trees. Lunch was meagre, if sustaining.

Our next lesson was in the basics of radio-tracking. While an invaluable aid to research, we were also introduced to its shortcomings. Day and night we searched the forest for the slightest hint of a radio-collared wolf. But not so much as a beep emanated from the

receiver. When we did find wolf tracks in the fresh snow it set my heart pounding.

We worked in a shift pattern. Four six-hour shifts meant that when we were not radio-tracking we could be searching the forest tracks for footprints, droppings or a kill. One morning we arrived at breakfast to the excited faces of the night shift. A signal: at last we had the wolves in our grasp. Or not, as the case proved to be a slight error on the part of Jeep, the co-ordinator of the trip. A bison with a similar radio-frequency was to blame.

Eventually we did make contact. It was dark and bitterly cold as we tried to pick up the signal of a wolf named "Bura". The previous shift had found her in the northeastern corner of the park. In the time it took us to get there, she had moved. It was a fraught four and a half hours before we eventually re-established contact. She was the alpha female with the pack and they had moved a great distance. Relieved, I returned to the hotel.

The following morning we emerged to the grim faces of the last shift. The wolves we had spent so long trying to find had gone where we could not follow. Across the border

Continued on next page

CAYMAN ISLANDS

In this peaceful and sun-soaked British Crown Colony in the Caribbean you can relax on powder white sand beaches. Enjoy world class diving, snorkelling. An idyllic wedding and honeymoon. Delicacies, hotels, apartments and restaurants.

New brochure features a wide range of holidays.

WARMED BY MORE THAN THE SUN

FOR BROCHURE CALL 0171-491 7771

RAMSGATE TO OSTEND

MILES

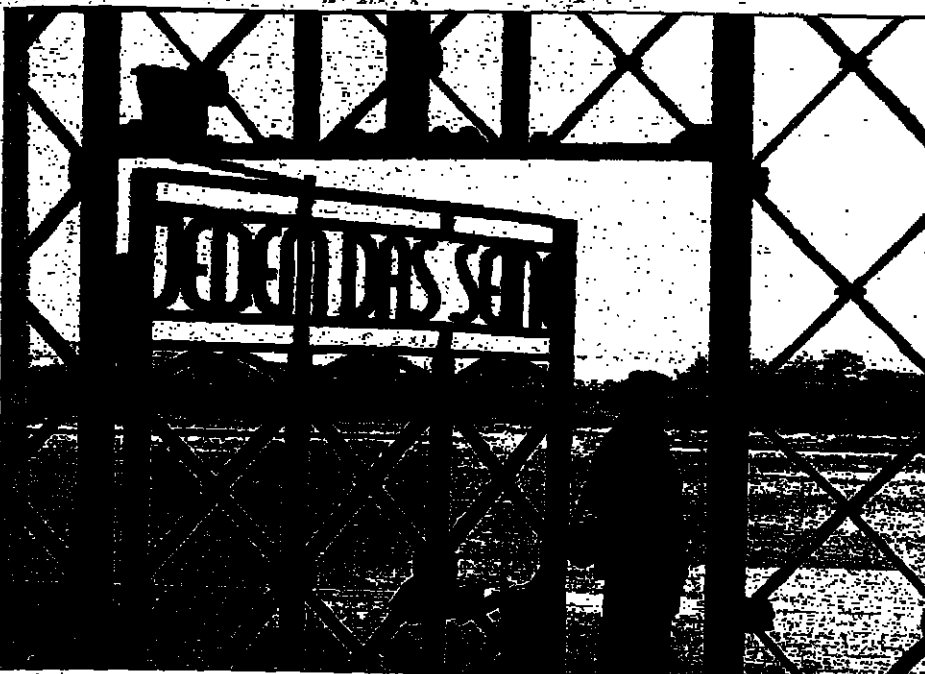
BETTER for EUROPE!

EASE OF RAMSGATE • WELCOME OF OSTEND

Hollyman **sally** Ferries

We sail to please

and the uneasy mixture of cultural creativity and Nazi horror that is still to be found in Weimar



Buchenwald, one of the Nazis' largest death camps, set on a hill above Weimar

Light among the darkness

It so happens that the site of one of the largest Nazi death camps is just four miles from the most glorious shrine of German liberal humanistic culture. Buchenwald and Weimar. Darkness and light. You can stroll in the pretty park where Goethe wrote his hymns to freedom, then drive up the hill to the grim barracks.

Before facing that challenge, it is worth spending time in Goethe's delightful Weimar in wooded Thuringia. Crisscrossed with memorial plaques to men of genius, Weimar (pop. 60,000) probably has the richest density of cultural history of any small town in Europe, thanks to its former ducal rulers who were eager patrons of the arts. Germany's first opera house was built here in 1696. Bach and Cranach lived and worked here, then Schiller, Liszt, Nietzsche... the list is endless.

Above all, Goethe spent much of his life here. In his green-shuttered baroque home we saw his library, his beloved garden where he tried to grow grapes for wine (not a success), and we walked to his boy-like summerhouse by the river, where he dabbled with

his loves. Here is a statue of Shakespeare, the one European writer whom even the Germans acknowledge to be greater than their own Bard.

The GDR regime dutifully kept Weimar in aspic — a bit rundown but unspoilt. Now it has filled with boutiques, bistros and hotels, but has not lost its charm — even while being frantically refurbished for 1999. Then, on the 250th anniversary of Goethe's birth, the 50th anniversary of the creation of the GDR and the tenth of the fall of the Berlin Wall, it will be Europe's official annual City of Culture.

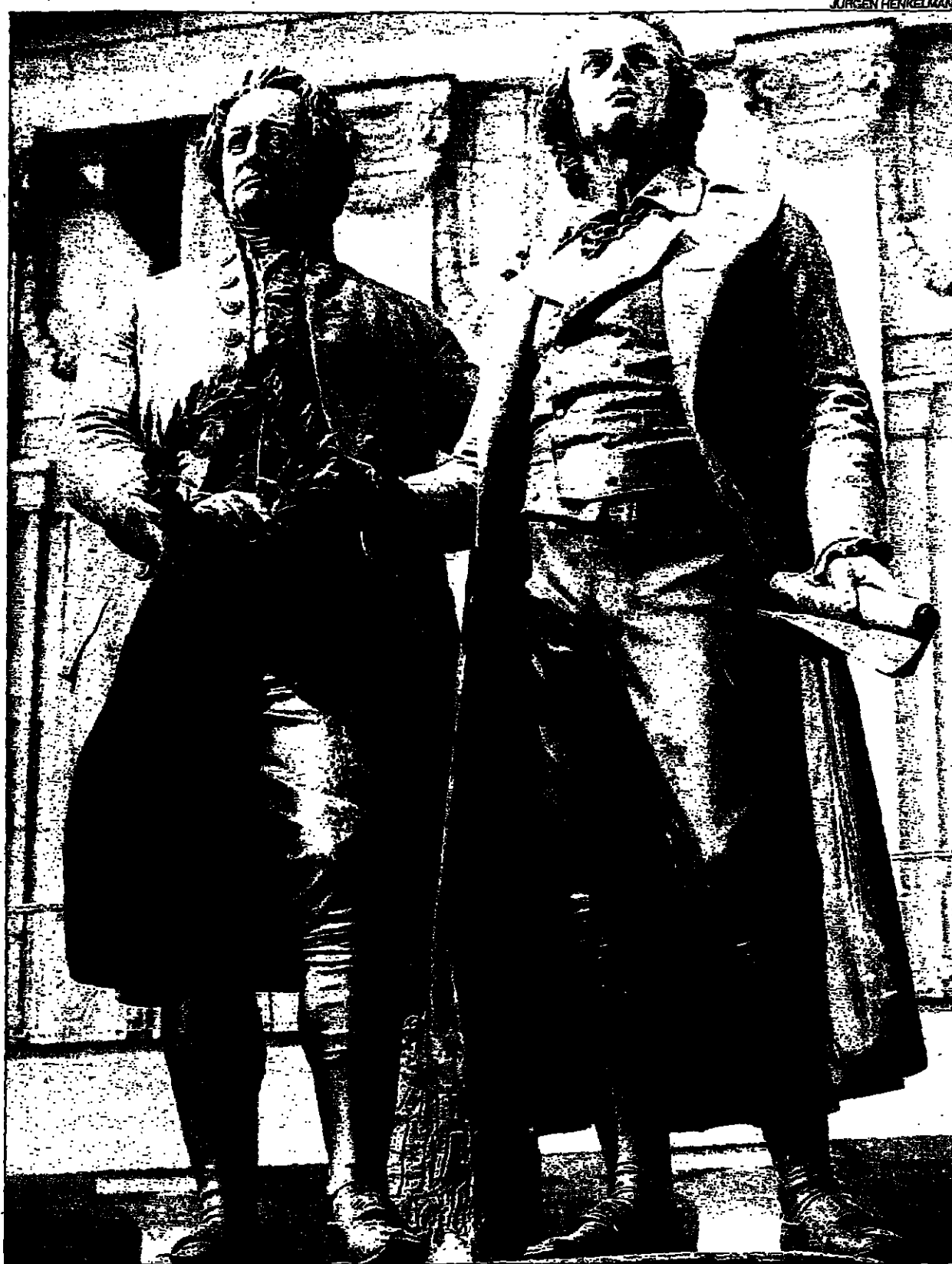
Despite its palaces and great paintings, its wealth of baroque and rococo, Weimar wears its cultural splendour lightly — a human-scale town of small cobbled squares and poetic vistas. Many of the homes of the great are now museums. We saw Liszt's grand piano, Nietzsche's library, the church where Johann Herder preached. And we visited the new Bauhaus museum. In the house where this radical design movement was founded by Walter Gropius in 1919, but then rejected by Weimar's stuffy citizenry and transferred to Dessau. Nazis

and Communists alike hated the free-thinkers of the Bauhaus, but now it has been reinstated in its birthplace.

On the square is the famous double statue of Goethe and Schiller beside the great theatre where *Faust* had its premiere in 1829, and where in 1919 the deputies of Germany's new parliament, fleeing riot-torn Berlin, met to devise the liberal constitution that gave birth to the Weimar Republic.

But the paradox is that most of Weimar's own citizens were not liberals and did not deserve Goethe. Weimar elected the Nazis to power locally in 1932, and in 1933 voted 60 per cent for Hitler. The writer Thomas Mann remarked: "The mixture of Hitlerism and Goethe [in Weimar] is particularly disturbing."

In the market square Hitler used to frequent the historic Elephant (where we enjoyed a Thuringian lunch of beef and dumplings). He set up an elite political school in Weimar — a reason why one of the first of the "future concentration camps" was built on the Buchenwald hill above the town. So the proximity is no coinci-



Famous double statue of Schiller and Goethe standing in the square at Weimar, where they lived and worked

dence. The original gateway stands with its cryptic wrought-iron slogan, "Jedem das Seine" (to each his own). Beyond is a vast razed open space where 56,000 died, and a museum that tells the facts of the camp and its controversial aftermath.

The GDR regime made it a memorial to the victims, but their museum — as I saw on a visit in 1985 — put the accent firmly on the sufferings of German Communists and Russian POWs. There was no separate Jewish memorial, for the GDR disliked the state of

Israel and its links with Bonn. "The GDR rulers used Buchenwald as a shrine to justify the origins of their regime," an historian at the camp told me this year, "and anything that did not fit they rejected."

That bias has now been corrected. There is a new

Jewish memorial and another for gypsies killed in the camp and non-Communist martyrs are properly honoured.

After the Berlin Wall fell, details began to emerge of the Soviet Army's camp on the same site for Nazi suspects in 1945-51. This had been totally



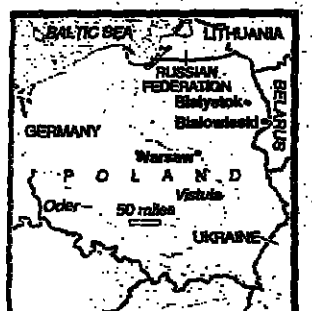
FACT FILE

■ Weimar is eight hours by road from Calais. Lufthansa (0345 737747) flies to Frankfurt for £138, then 2½ hours by train (£63.30 return with German Rail). British Airways (0345 222111) flies to Leipzig from £167, then one hour by train (£16.80 return).
■ German Rail (0181-390 8833) from Brussels via Cologne to Weimar for £110.50. Eurostar (0345 303030) to Brussels starts at £69 return.
■ Hotel Elephant (00 49 3643 8028) has double B&B from £71. Christliches Amalienhof (00 49 3643 5490) has double B&B, £52.
■ The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Weimar Culture*, by Peter Gay (Penguin, £8.99). *Germany and the Germans*, by John Ardagh (Penguin, £8.99).

hushed up during the GDR's time. A museum of this Soviet camp is being prepared for 1999. The hidden mass graves of its anonymous victims are marked by a phalanx of tall steel pillars in the beechwoods, looking rather beautiful. The festival's boldest feature is that the themes of Weimar culture and Buchenwald, good and evil, are to be intertwined. "These few square miles," an official told me, "contain the darkest and brightest in German history, in human society. We must confront it openly."

Some Weimarians are not so sure. In 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the camp's liberation, when the town used Hitler's pompous yellow downtown headquarters for an exhibition of works by death camp artists (mostly from Auschwitz), there were some angry protests. And 1999 seems likely to draw more. "Why should we spoil our lovely cultural festival by dragging up gobs about Nazis?" was one comment I heard. I wonder what Goethe would have said.

JOHN ARDAGH



Continued from page 18 into Belorussia. And that was it for the tracking. Frustration was evident in the faces of the researchers. Here they had the help they needed, willing and able researchers, and yet the



wolves were failing to cooperate. Surprisingly, there were no complaints from the volunteers about the lack of contact with wolves. The experience of knowing that the work we were doing was valuable, plus the beauty of the forest, made it worthwhile.

For those with a naturalist bent, there was so much to marvel at. There are oak trees unlike anything I seen before. Here they grow tall and proud, bolting for the light before unfurling their canopy. Then there was the sight of a red squirrel with tufted ears, followed by a huge shadow

moving across the track. As I ran towards it I had no idea how wild European bison are supposed to react to an out-of-breath ecologist. Luckily this great beast was satisfied simply to observe me.

We did meet a wolf. Three years ago, as a pup, Kazan was dug from his den and sold as a pet in Bialystok. Wolves do not make good pets and after six months he had devastated the apartment in which he was kept and was dumped at the national park. He could not be released back into the wild, because he had no experience with other wolves.

■ The author travelled with LOT Polish Airlines (0171-580 5837), which flies between London and Warsaw from about £149 return.

■ The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (01491 839766) runs a number of trips in Britain and abroad. In Poland, work is centred on the Bialowieza forest, home of the European bison, pine martens, beavers, lynx and wolves. A holiday spent radio-

FACT FILE

tracking wolves costs from £645, excluding flights.

Next departures are Sept 29, Dec 20, Feb 25 and May 23.

■ For further information, call the Polish National Tourist Office on 0171-580 8811.

■ The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Heart of Europe*, by Norman Davies (OUP, £11.99); *Exit into History*, by Eva Hoffman (Minerva, £6.99); *Poland*, by Sebastian Wormell (Pallas, £16.95).

So he was put in an old aviary. For two years he has suffered here, but there is hope.

"When we have raised enough money, we are going to convert the old deer paddock into a wolf-proof enclosure," Mr Bush said. "We also hope to rescue a female wolf from a zoo in Poland to provide company for Kazan."

The satisfaction of seeing Kazan allowed to run with a partner was all the more sweet knowing that we have helped to open his horizons.

HUGH WARWICK

NEW ZEALAND & the SOUTH SEAS

A 29 DAY EPIC JOURNEY TO LOS ANGELES, HAWAII, FIJI AND NEW ZEALAND



day to day management of the tour.

includes stopovers in both Fiji and Singapore.

Prices range from £2995 to £3255.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Please telephone 0171-409 0376

(7 days a week during office hours).

NOBLE CREEDONIA LIMITED

11 CHARLES STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1X 8LE

TELEPHONE 0171-409 0376 FACSIMILE 0171-409 0834

24 HOUR BROCHURE ANSWERPHONE 0171-355 1424

ATOL 5108 ARIA 521X

and unwind following the demanding schedule in New Zealand.

SMALL PARTY SIZE

Our party size varies from 15 to 30 passengers and is fully escorted from London. This leaves you free of all the tedious and often worrying aspects of travel which can detract from the overall enjoyment.

Prices range from £4200 to £4592 depending on the date chosen and include Air New Zealand scheduled flights and a comprehensive itinerary based on first class or comfortable hotels and most meals in New Zealand.

CAN'T SPARE THE TIME?

For those looking for a shorter, yet still comprehensive tour we have introduced a 22 day tour which

includes stopovers in both Fiji and Singapore.

Prices range from £2995 to £3255.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Please telephone 0171-409 0376

(7 days a week during office hours).

NOBLE CREEDONIA LIMITED

11 CHARLES STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1X 8LE

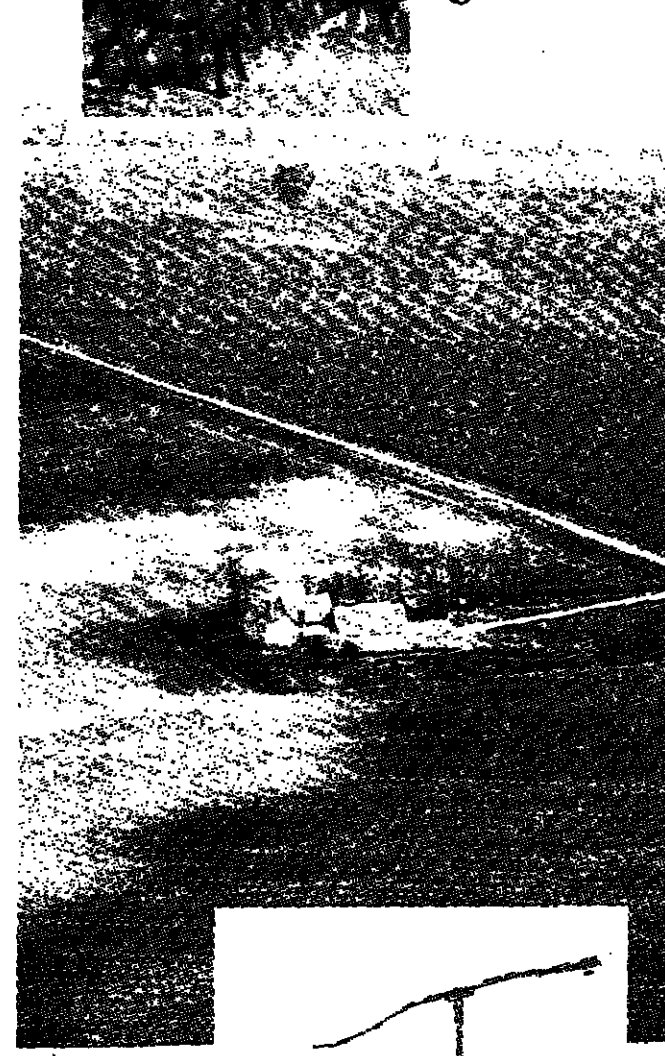
TELEPHONE 0171-409 0376 FACSIMILE 0171-409 0834

24 HOUR BROCHURE ANSWERPHONE 0171-355 1424

ATOL 5108 ARIA 521X

Open doors. Open hearts. Open minds. Hungary

The Puszta is full of enigmas



The silence of the plains is only an illusion - the tranquillity in the world of plants and animals harbours a wealth of excitement

Here you find the famous stud-farms with the legendary ciszkos (horsemen), the heptlemen with their indigenous long horn grey cattle and ancient breed of "kicker" sheep

Eastern Hungary, incorporating the Great Hungarian Plain is not an open air museum but a unique region of unparalleled peasant cultural heritage. The romantic puszta gives you the sensation of infinite freedom. You will discover a world close to nature, full of ancient customs, old folk, antiques, instruments and gastronomic delights of herdsman cooked in traditional cauldrons. The puszta is full of romantic promises

Hungary awaits you with a thousand-year old hospitality

For more information, please contact: HUNGARIAN NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE

C/O Embassy of the Republic of Hungary,

Commercial Section

46 Eaton Place

London SW1 8AL

Tel: 0171 823 1032

Fax: 0171 823 1159



101 BUDAPEST, 11-1052 Budapest, Suite 6, 2
Tel: (36-1) 11 9800, Fax: (36-1) 11 95 78
E-mail address: touristinfo@hungary.com
Homepage: http://www.hungary.com/tourinfo

Spain: All you need is a stout stick and a wine glass for a walk through the undulating vineyards of Rioja



Vineyards near Logroño where the landscape descends in broad terraces, valleys and streams from the foothills of the Sierra de Cantabria. The red wine of last year's harvest is fruity and has at least 12 or 13 degrees of alcohol

A backpack and plenty of bottle

Picnic time in Rioja Mavesa, northern Spain. A morning of walking has earned me the pleasure of this agreeable spot but a glass for the *vino tinto* is lacking. No matter. Using a method I like to fancy I invented. I drink a bottle of mineral water, then slice the top three inches off the bottle, thus providing myself with an adequate, if less than elegant, beaker.

The red wine of last year's harvest is cool, fruity, has — I would guess — at least 12 or 13 degrees of alcohol and is the perfect accompaniment to the buttered crust of the delicious wholemeal loaf from La Tahona, *artesanía del pan*, in Logroño and a Pyrenean cheese which resembles

Cantal. Lunch is later than intended. Counting upon the undulating dirt roads that provide easy marching in this country of vines, cereals and evergreen scrub, the calculation was that by noon, and before the shops closed for hours, I would have covered the ten miles between Oyón and the charming hilltop town of Laguardia, where I would have bought wine and, in under an hour, have been seated in the foothills of the Sierra de Cantabria.

Chance ruled otherwise. I had progressed only two or three miles from Oyón and was studying the small scale motorist map that was all I had been able to buy when another walker appeared over the hill. Like me, he had a stick

and a rucksack. Unlike me, he also sported a black Basque beret. He lived in Bilbao, but was visiting relations who had a house a few kilometres further on from where we were. Then perhaps he could tell me whether the right or left fork would be best for Laguardia? With pleasure, but it was the right direction for him, too. Perhaps we could walk together?

Two hours later, in the cellar of a modest little house in El Espino, I was eating olives and sampling the 1995 vintage made from some two dozen vines by one of the most simple methods — the juice run from an ancient hand press and fermented in an oak cask. Would I not stay to lunch, when we might taste



one or two other wines of the village, where there were seven wine-makers? The kindness was touching, the sincerity not in doubt. Nevertheless, I explained, with little more than six or seven miles of walking behind me I had as many more to cover if I was to end the day with a clear conscience and a sense of achievement. Would I, then, at least accept a bottle to take with me? Knowing that it would now be too late to buy anything in Laguardia, I accepted without demur.

Lunch in El Espino would have been fun, but I had no regrets about this picnic on a hillside just south of Laguardia. Wine country or not, such moments are one of the walker's most valued delights. Even allowing for a certain

familiar euphoria induced by exercise, sun, and *vino tinto*, Rioja (by which I mean especially the Alavesa part of it) has more than fulfilled my hopes for a wine country that I am seeing for the first time. Descending in folds and broad terraces and valleys and streams from the Sierra de Cantabria, behind me, to the north bank of the Ebro, the land is not so devoted to the vine, nor are the vineyards so wide and so neatly ordered, as to suggest a viticultural park.

Nor is it cluttered by invasive urbanisation. Villages are few and for the most part appealingly situated, and although well endowed with architectural testaments to a past reaching to Roman times, or earlier, are in general innocent of the sort of self-conscious and contrived prettiness to be found in many a better known wine region of Europe. Yecora, El Ciego, Briones, La Bastida, San Vicente de la Snoopier, and above all, Laguardia. Churches — as often as not built as fortifications — stand proud above 18th century mansions, medieval hovels and castle ruins.

In cobbled squares markets are held much as they must

have been held long ago. In labyrinthine streets and secret courtyards the summer sun reaches only briefly even at high noon. Thus the feel of the land is still essentially rustic. One would not be surprised to learn that in many cellars grapes are still pressed with the bare feet and vinified in open troughs bawn from the native stone.

So far as commercial wine-making in Rioja is concerned, it is a seriously misleading impression. Picturesquely to be seen in the bodegas of Haro and Logroño are rank upon rank of casks representing more oak than one might have believed could still exist in all the hardwood forests of the old and New Worlds put together, but high tech is well understood and widely practised, and the tendency to over-oak the reds seems far from persisting as a general rule.

Tonight at dinner I shall have no difficulty in procuring a local wine of pleasing distinction that has spent no more than a few months in the wood. Not that I shall be in a pernickety frame of mind; it will have been altogether too good a day for that.

NIGEL BUXTON

RIOJA FACT FILE

■ British Airways (345-22211) flies from Heathrow to Bilbao twice daily, from £199 return.

■ P&O Ferries (0990-980080) has a 35-hour crossing from Portsmouth to Bilbao, sailing twice a week. Ten-day return fares start at £285 for a car and two adults. Cabins £50 each way, extra.

■ Brittany Ferries (0990-360360) sails twice weekly from Plymouth to Santander (24-hour crossing with low season return fares from £301 for a car, two adults and cabin).

■ The Hotel Los Agustinos in Haro (00 34 941 31 1308) charges £125 per night for a

double. Rooms can be pre-booked through Brittany Ferries from £34 per person per night. The tourist office opposite the hotel is knowledgeable and helpful.

■ Maps: 1:50,000 Spanish Military Survey, sheets Haro & Logroño. Order from

Stanfords, Long Acre, London WC2 (0171-836 1320). £5.95 (£7.25 by post).

■ The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *The Face of Spain*, by Gerald Brennan (Penguin, £6.99), *The Foods and Wines of Spain*, by Penelope Casas (Penguin, £10), *The New Spaniards*, by John Hooper (Penguin, £8.99).

WORLD COVER

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE
CALL US ON 0800 365 121

AUTUMN CRUISE OFFER

THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, SUEZ CANAL & RED SEA ABOARD AEGEAN I

Join Voyages of Discovery this Autumn for a memorable 11 or 12 day cruise and enjoy the opportunity to visit some of the most fascinating sites and cities in the world — the rose-red city of Petra, Luxor, Karnak and the Valley of the Kings, Damascus, Jerusalem, St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai Desert, Cairo & the Pyramids, Ephesus...

ITINERARIES

Red Sea Discovery — 12 Days 7th-18th November 1997

● Fly from Gatwick or Manchester to Athens, Greece for City tour and Acropolis.
● Kusadasi, Turkey for Ephesus. ● At Sea.
● Tarsus, Syria for Damascus. ● Larnaca, Cyprus for Nicosia. ● Ashdod, Israel for Jerusalem & Bethlehem. ● Port Said, Egypt for Cairo & Pyramids. ● Transit Suez Canal.
● & ● Safage Egypt for Luxor, Karnak & Valley of the Kings. ● Agaba, Jordan for Petra.
● Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt for St. Catherine's Monastery and return flight to UK.

Red Sea Explorer — 11 Days 18th-28th November 1997

● Fly from Gatwick or Manchester to Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt (stay overnight). ● Sharm el Sheikh for St. Catherine's Monastery.
● Agaba, Jordan for Petra. ● Safage, Egypt for Luxor, Karnak & Valley of the Kings.
● At Sea. ● Suez, Egypt for Cairo & Pyramids.
● Transit Suez Canal. ● Ashdod, Israel for Jerusalem & Bethlehem. ● At Sea.
● Kusadasi, Turkey for Ephesus. ● Athens, Greece for City tour & Acropolis and return flight to UK.

The above gives just a brief outline. In most ports of call there is a choice of excursions available.

Aegean I, which is exclusively chartered by Voyages of Discovery for British passengers on these cruises, is a friendly, comfortable ship, with a maximum of 650 passengers. All cabins are bright, modern and comfortably furnished with two lower beds or a double bed.

Book your cruise before 31st May 1997 and enjoy savings of up to £500 per person. Special fares from just £895 per person for 11 days include return flights from Gatwick or Manchester, all port and airport taxes, all meals and entertainment on board, an informative programme of talks on the places we visit and overseas transfers.

For further details call us now:

24 hour brochureline 01293 433041

Reservations 01293 433030

Voyages of Discovery, Premier House, Bets. Way, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 2GB

Tel: 01293 433030 Fax: 01293 433036

Voyages of Discovery is a trading name of All Leisure Holidays Ltd. Address as above.



WORD WATCH

Answers from page 25

NICOLA

(c) A type of onyx. The aphetic form of *oniceolo*, a diminutive from the Latin *onyx*. "The variety of onyx known as nicolo, consisting of a layer of a bluish tint over black."

PIEPOWDER

(c) Wayfaring, itinerant, from the Anglo-French and Anglo-Latin *pede-pulverosus* dusty-footed. Hence a travelling man, a wayfarer, especially an itinerant merchant or trader. Chiefly used in the *Court of Piepowders*, a summary court formerly held from the 14th century at fairs and markets to administer justice among itinerant dealers and others temporarily present. "Dost think that John Bull will be tried by Piepowders?"

POMADA

(a) An exercise of vaulting upon or over a horse by placing one hand on the pommel of the saddle. From the Italian for the pommel of a saddle, *pomo*. Aubrey, *Brief Lives*, 1697: "He was very active. He did the pomado in the saddle of the third horse in his armour."

NESCIENCE

(a) Absence or lack of knowledge, ignorance. Or an instance of this. From *nescientia* a late Latin noun from *nescire* to be ignorant. "The miserable fraction of Science which united Mankind, in a wide universe of Nescience, has acquired."

A TRAVELPLANNERS PROMOTION

Pride of South Africa

From £899 per person*

★ Johannesburg ★ Durban ★ Kruger National Park
★ Zululand ★ Drakensberg Mountains

The Itinerary

Day 1: Depart London airport for Johannesburg.
Day 2: On arrival at Johannesburg airport you will be met by your escort and transferred to the Holiday Inn Garden Court Sandton (or similar) for overnight.
Day 3: Tour/lunch at Lesedi Cultural Village.
Day 4: Breakfast at hotel then tour to Kruger National Park. Accommodation Malelane Lodge (or similar) for two nights.
Day 5: Breakfast at hotel then full day game viewing.
Day 6: Breakfast at hotel then travel through Swaziland to Zululand overnight at Hlabulwe Hilltop (or similar) for overnight.
Day 7: Breakfast at hotel then continue tour to Dundee via Vryheid along the battlefields route. Accommodation for two nights at The Royal Inn battlefields.
Day 8: Breakfast at hotel then continue to Durban. Included is a city tour of Durban and the craft markets.
Day 9: Breakfast at hotel. Morning at leisure. Then transfer out to airport for flight back to London via Johannesburg.
Day 10: Arrive London.

For a copy of the brochure please return the coupon below to: TravelPlanners, FREEPOST MB1949, Orpington, Kent, SE5 3BR or Tel: 0990 280083 (please quote tour name)

Please send me further information on the TravelPlanners' Pride of South Africa offer:

Mr/Ms/Miss Initials Surname
Address:

Tour Code: GSA TRAVELPLANNERS

Prices and departure dates

9th August 1997 £899*
16th August 1997 £939*
23rd August 1997 £939*
30th August 1997 £939*

*South African departure tax not included (currently ZAR 58 - approx £2.40). Single room supplement £199

Included:

- ★ Scheduled flights on Virgin Atlantic
- ★ UK Airport Departure Tax (currently £10)
- ★ 7 nights hotel accommodation (based upon twin accommodation)
- ★ 7 Breakfasts/ Lunch
- ★ Baggage handling
- ★ Luxury air-conditioned coaches
- ★ English speaking escort/guide
- ★ Entrance to Kruger Nat. Game Park
- ★ Entrance to Battlefields museums
- ★ Local sightseeing tours

AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Hear Verdi on the Nile

A SPECIAL production of *Aida* in Luxor in October marks the 125th anniversary of the opera's world premiere. First performed in Cairo in 1872, the opera was composed by Verdi to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal. Set in Memphis and Thebes, now the Nile's most popular holiday resort of Luxor, it is to be performed against the 3,500-year-old backdrop of Queen Hatshepsut's Temple, the title role shared by Aprile Millo and Wilhelmina Fernandez.

Cox & Kings (0171-873 5000) has a four-night break for £1195, flying to and from Cairo, B&B accommodation, a category 'A' ticket to the opera and excursions in Cairo and Luxor. Prospect Music and Art Tours (0181-095 2151) offers a choice of return flights to Luxor with a week's B&B hotel accommodation for £995, or flights and a night in Cairo followed by five nights in Luxor, returning from Aswan, for £950. Excursions and opera tickets are included in both tours.

Cruising along with the cargo

IT WAS in response to cruise passengers' requests on "how can we go to sea on a real ship, without dressing up, entertainment and going ashore en masse?" that Ian C. Calderon, a former cruise captain, began to organise passages on working ships, where passengers are welcome to join the voyage but the cargo comes first.

On a traditional Fyfe's banana boat, a round-trip carrying cargo from Portsmouth to Big Creek in Belize and Cortes in Honduras, returning with a hold full of fruit 28 days later, costs £1980 (a one-way trip is £1000). The ships have three twin-bedded cabins with private facilities, and passengers dine with the British officers.

Sailing from Felixstowe, a 23,000-tonne container ship with indoor swimming pool, sauna and library can carry eight passengers for two months on an Indian Ocean route via Marseilles, the Suez Canal, Dar-es-Salaam, Mombasa, Mauritius, the Seychelles, Madagascar and back to the UK for about £3,400. These and other trips from Cargo Ship Voyages (01473 736265).

FOR the over-25s with a penchant for fast cars, Loch Torridon Hotel (01445 791242) in the northwest Scottish Highlands offers two-night breaks with accommodation, dinner and breakfast, plus a Ferrari, Aston Martin, Lotus, Porsche or Austin Healey to

Back to nature

ENVIRONMENTAL charity the Field Studies Council (01743 850522), which runs nearly 40 overseas study courses for both all-round enthusiasts and serious naturalists, introduces "The Elusive Canary Islands" in January.

Better known, perhaps, as the habitat of the Greater Frigatebird, the Lizard, the hinterland of Tenerife can boast a remarkable range of scenery from subtropical palm groves to pristine lava fields and pine forests. Strange little Lanzarote, blown up by volcanic activity, is also on the itinerary of the ten-night fully inclusive tour which costs £1,300.

Terminal time

THOSE who have had to suffer the cramped horrors of Europe's busiest summer airport — Palma in Majorca (Britannia alone has 84 flights a week during the high season) — will be relieved that the new £200-million terminal, intended to cope with up to 12,000 passengers an hour, is at last functioning properly.

There may, however, be fewer Brits to enjoy the luxury of air conditioning, enough seats and baggage facilities, and escalators that work. Last year saw a decrease of 7 per cent in the number of British visitors to the Balearic Islands (2.6 million, the vast majority to Majorca), while



Queen Hatshepsut's Temple in Luxor is the backdrop to a production of *Aida* to mark the 125th anniversary of the opera's world premiere

the number of German holiday-makers has increased to 3.6 million. And the trend away from hotel-based holidays continues. More than 51 per cent of Britons stayed in apartments or houses last year, as against 47.7 per cent in hotels.

Under 26 only

FOR an annual payment of just £7, those lucky enough to be under 26 years of age can get substantial discounts on flights

worldwide and on Eurostar journeys, 10 per cent off travel gear from YHA Adventure Shops, savings of up to £5 on Rough Guides, cheaper international phone calls and voice-mail facilities, as well as reductions on some accommodation, museums and galleries across Europe.

For more information contact Under 26 (0171-823 5363).

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

CITY breaks to the Polish port of Gdansk, now celebrating its millennium, are offered by Fregata Travel (0171-451 7000). A four-night B&B break costs £329 in May and June, when events include the opening of the 1,000 Years of Gdansk Exhibition, the Millennium Sailing Cup and an International Organ Music Festival.

Choose Corfu

MORE favourable exchange rates, an expensive facility for its capital and much-needed improvements to its airport could attract British holidaymakers back to Corfu this summer.

Well away from the mousaka and chips belt, villa expert C.V. Travel (0171-581 0851) offers two weeks for the price of one on some holidays at the end of May. A fortnight in a villa sleeping four

in the hamlet of Kaminaki, a minute away from the beach, costs £325 per person, which includes flights, transfers, a food hamper and maid service.

Touch of class

DETAILS such as private transfer from airport or station and useful extras add a touch of class to the new short-break programme from Kiker Holidays (0171-231 3333). On Barcelona breaks, from £299 for two nights, the firm includes a 100-peseta coin (about 45p), the key to the airport's luggage trolleys on arrival. In Amsterdam (from £209), Kiker can arrange a trip to The Hague with tickets to a concert at the Brahms Festival commemorating the centenary of the composer's death. A carnet of 10 Metro tickets comes with short breaks to Paris where prices start at £159 for two nights by Eurostar.

Bargain buses

THE further you go on a Euroline (01582 404511) coach, the cheaper it gets: the regular adult return fare to Moscow costs £206 for the 3,946-mile round trip, 5.2p per mile, while to Paris the £43 return fare for the 524 miles works out at 8.2p per mile. Warsaw offers the best bargain: the adult return costs £89, the distance there and back is 2,184 miles, with a rate per mile of just over 4p. The under-26s, and any over-60s with stamina, get reductions of about 10 per cent on these fares.

MUSHROOM addicts can enjoy a special autumn break organised by VFB Holidays (01242 240338), with fungi forays into the wooded Ardennes led by an expert. There will be a chance to cook and eat the spoils later. The three-night half-board break is based at Charleville-Mezieres, and costs £233 including coach travel.

TRAVEL NEWS

Airtours launches timeshares

AIRTOURS begins selling timeshares on its £26 million development in Florida this week.

The company, which built a reputation as a low-cost package tour operator, is convinced that timeshare will prove to be the next big growth area for British tourists. "The tide of opinion has changed," said David Crossland, chairman of Airtours.

With no initial deposit, a ten-day cooling-off period, payments over a flexible period and the opportunity of swapping timeshares around the world, it is bound to be of enormous appeal. Airtours predicts that when all 19 accommodation blocks, each containing 32 apartments, are completed they will attract up to 125,000 holidaymakers a year.

The average price of a timeshare on the development known as Oasis Palms near Orlando, which will be ready in November, will be £6,800, which can be borrowed through a building society on an unsecured loan. Further developments are likely.

Potential buyers will be given the "soft sell" in Airtours package brochures, in Going Places travel agents, on board Airtours flights and in their resort hotels.

READERS ringing around for holiday brochures to France are taking pot luck on what will arrive and when, a new survey has shown. Of 100 operators called, half ensured their brochures arrived within two days, and 75 per cent within four days.

But 11 had failed to send a brochure almost two months later — including Eurocamp, Keycamp and Just France. The quality of response was also random. The majority of brochures had no accompanying letter and, of those who did include a letter, fewer than half were personalised.

The survey, by researcher Peter Hunt, gave top marks to one small operator who included a two-page handwritten letter with the brochure. Small is often beautiful.

RYANAIR (0541 509569) has sold more than 20,000 tickets at the lead-in fare of £19 on a new route between London Stansted and Prestwick in Scotland.

Jules Verne fights back

Holiday firm under fire answers complaints from its critics



Allan Jones: defensive

one reader, Mr J. Booth of Lutterworth, Leicestershire, pointed out, his JVV tour of the palaces of Rajasthan in January was at least £600 cheaper than a similar tour with another company.

The company is able to sell cheaply partly because it sells direct, mainly through newspaper advertising, thus saving commissions to travel agents.

It has only a small office staff and usually charters aircraft rather than using scheduled departures. It uses Monarch and Air 2000 charter planes, which have less leg room than scheduled aircraft. This has given rise to a number of complaints, particularly on flights lasting several hours. "Monarch must have been designed for midgets," wrote

Ida Staples of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

JVV made a mistake when it advertised flights to Havana, Cuba, for 1996-97. Some passengers found that instead of a ten-hour flight, they had to endure a journey double that time, via Gandor and Costa Rica, on a single-aisle Monarch 757 aircraft.

JVV hopes to charter a larger aircraft for Cuba and Costa Rica next winter.

Using charters can also mean changes to itineraries within days or weeks of departure as non-full flights are consolidated. Such changes have also brought the wrath of passengers upon JVV.

The company, which marks its 20th year of trading and travelling next year, admits

Surry. However, almost without exception, readers praised the skill, knowledge and attitude of guides and drivers used by JVV. And with 50 per cent of customers being repeat business, many customers seem satisfied.

Another strong area of criticism from readers was in how JVV handles complaints — often not responding to faxes, letters and phone calls. Some people have used ABTA's conciliation service, which fined JVV twice last December, a total of £1,250, for breaches of conduct.

JVV said: "We only have a complaint ratio of 2 or 3 per cent. But nowadays people are much more prone to complain. Unfortunately, we are compared to companies who operate a simple two flights and hotel package."

The Travel Editor now considers correspondence related to JVV to be closed.



Beware border bungle

problem is to obtain a visa in the UK, or in our consulates in Agaba or Eilat, and insist it is for an individual.

From Mr M Warner, Woodbridge, Suffolk: Having recently returned from a magical holiday in New Zealand, I must write to express my disappointment in the article of April 5, which

failed to transmit the many superb facets of a holiday in a country more beautiful than I dared to believe. To base a page on six days in the country is unfair — New Zealand is the best holiday destination I have been to in many years of travelling. Do go, but keep it clean for my next visit.

From Audrey Binyon, Cobham, Surrey: Joanna Mitchell (Weekend, April 19) complained of the £7 tip requested by her Nile guide. My husband and I went on a Nile trip and were much impressed that the guide did all the tipping so that we were not pestered. I noticed the passing of coins each time we went through a gate or door, so that we were not asked for anything. The guide would pounce on any of us who did try to give, as he had already done so.

● We welcome letters on holiday travel. Send them to: Letters, Travel Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN or fax 0171-782 5124.



Following all 1200+ writer changes and mileage awards with participating airlines, but not travel. Options and room subject to availability. Rates valid Friday, Saturday or Sunday until 15/4/98. Warm Heart London.

Priceless weekend memories of London from £119†

Weekend
OPTIONS®
Heart of the City

Although your leisure time is limited this weekend, the possibilities shouldn't be. Join us at Inter-Continental and Forum Hotels and Resorts and you'll have the luxury of choice. Special rates start at just £119 per couple per night* inclusive of one of the following complimentary options:

- Full American Breakfast for Two.
- Upgrade to Club Inter-Continental Room or Jr. Suite.
- Additional Guest Room at Half-Price.
- Double Bonus Mileage with Participating Airlines.

To make a reservation in any one of our 60 hotels in 50 European cities call now on 0345 581444 and ask for Heart of the City Weekend Options. For a brochure call 0800 854068.

London from £119, Edinburgh from £115.

INTER-CONTINENTAL
HOTELS AND RESORTS

Europe • The Middle East • Africa • Asia Pacific • The Americas
ONE WORLD • ONE HOTEL • UNIQUELY INTER-CONTINENTAL
www.interconti.com

Britain: A wander through the Oxfordshire lanes immortalised by the author of *Lark Rise to Candleford*

Flora Thompson: observant eye

Flora's landscape lives on

"There you are!" the country doctor said when Flora Thompson was born in the Oxfordshire hamlet of Juniper Hill during a fierce snowstorm on December 5, 1876. "Here's the person who has caused all the bother. Let us hope she will prove worth it!"

Millions of appreciative readers all over the world believe that she did. A group of them will be gathered at Liphook Library in Hampshire on May 21, the 50th anniversary of her death, to do her honour. For Flora Thompson (her married name) died in 1947, having produced in the last eight years of her life one of the great classics of English country writing — her autobiographical trilogy *Lark Rise to Candleford* (1939), *Over to Candleford* (1941) and *Candleford Green* (1943), which were issued in 1945 as the one-volume *Lark Rise to Candleford*.

Flora Thompson was a loner, an onlooker with a sometimes gentle, sometimes sharply observant eye and a near miraculous gift for recall and for sifting out the wheat of memory from the chaff. As the curate diarist Francis Kilvert with Clyro, or Laurie Lee with Slad in *Cider with Rosie*, she painted her native Juniper Hill — under the guise of "Lark Rise" — in vivid colours, breathing new life into the farm workers and small tradesmen who had inhabited its cottages during her childhood.

She did the same for "Candleford", an amalgam of the nearby towns of Bicester, Banbury and Buckingham, and for "Candleford Green", the village of Fringford three miles from Juniper Hill where she went at the age of 14 to work as an assistant in the post office-cum-farm.

Among the characters Flora Thompson so subtly and brilliantly brings to life are self-sufficient old Sally, who could remember Lark Rise in the early 19th century before

its surrounding heath had been enclosed, and Queenie, the Timms's neighbour, another survivor from an earlier age, who as a young wife served her husband a pie containing the belt he had beaten her with, and in old age observed the country custom of telling her bees of his death. Readers come to know kindly Uncle Tom, the Liberal shoemaker of Candleford and sharp, stylish Dorcas Lane, the postmistress of Candleford Green.

Part of Flora Thompson's genius lay in her ability to draw scenes and characters in minute detail, illuminated by homely yet striking phrase-making. The chalky surface of the turnpike road was "thin pale mud, like uncooked batter"; a night-time pig killing "with its mud and blood, flaring lights and dark shadows, was as savage as anything to be seen in an African jungle"; an awkward lover at a dance "sat there all the evening, like a great gawk, in his light-grey Sunday suit, with his great red hands hanging down between his knees, and a crysanthemum in his buttonhole as big as a pancake".

But *Lark Rise to Candleford* has incalculable value, too, as a social document. It is a portrait of rural peasant society at the point of metamorphosis — the "Old England" that vanished within 30 years of Flora Thompson's childhood.

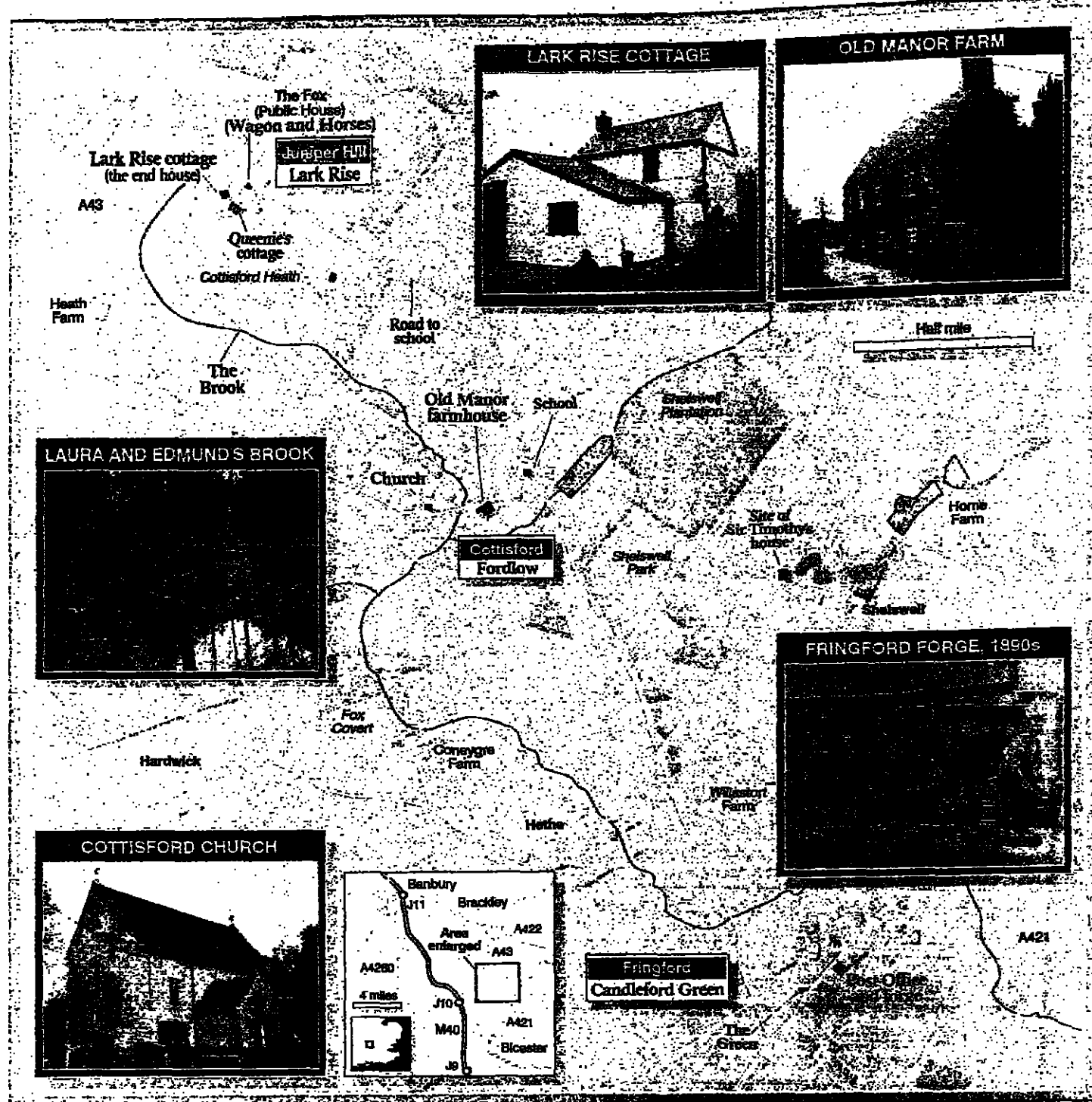
Great changes have swept across the north Oxfordshire countryside in the 100 years since Flora lived at Juniper Hill. But you can still walk along country lanes and footpaths from Lark Rise to Candleford Green and recognise most of the little rural stages on which her formative years were played out. The greatest physical change is to the A43 Oxford Road that passes the entrance to the hamlet. Flora knew it as a deserted, dusty white highway to nowhere, caught between the ages of the stagecoach and the car. Today it roars and

rushes, a black Tarmac torrent of speeding cars and lorries.

Juniper Hill is still a tiny hamlet of thatched and slate-roofed cottages surrounded by a rutted track. These days many of their gardens have been infilled with bungalows. The end house where Laura (Flora's alter ego) and her brother Edmund (Edwin Timms) were brought up, now named Lark Rise, stands on the right at the end, humble and withdrawn like the author herself. In front is Queenie's small-windowed cottage. The Fox pub (Flora's Wagon and Horses) fronts today's Tarmac road. Here the men would gather to sing and yarn over their hard-earned half-pints. The Fox has recently closed — temporarily, everyone hopes.

On the mile-long straight road to the village of Cottisford ("Fordow"), where Flora and her brother walked daily to school, you can hear larks singing above this low-lying, corn-growing countryside. Down in a dip runs the brook where Laura and Edmund rejoiced over finding white violets on their way home from school. The old school attended by Flora stands — exotically altered — at Cottisford village crossroads. The ancient manor farmhouse, where the Lark Rise men's employer "God a mighty" (as they called him) lived, crouches end-on to the village road, as does the towerless church — "a tiny place, about the size of a barn". From their pew Edmund and Laura, during tedious sermons, would gaze out of the open church door at birds, bees and butterflies flew past outside. Edwin Timms was killed during the First World War and his name is the last on the Roll of Honour on the wall above the Timms's family pew.

In Fringford (Candleford Green) the triangular village green lies under a huge Oxfordshire sky. The squire's mansion at Shelswell Park,



to which Flora delivered the mail — and where she was teased by Sir Timothy's footmen — has vanished, but the stable block endures. The thatched post office where Flora worked and lived with Dorcas Lane still stands in Main Street. Here Flora was told by a gypsy woman that she would be loved by people she would never see: a wonderfully accurate prophecy.

CHRISTOPHER SOMERVILLE

The 50th Anniversary Gathering will be on May 21 at noon at Liphook Library, Hampshire. Readings from Flora Thompson's writings will be given by David Wynn and Brenda Adams of the Banbury Tourist Company. For more information ring 01420 511505.

Reading: *Lark Rise to Candleford* by Flora Thompson (Penguin Modern Classics).

B&B: Yew Tree Cottage, Hinton-in-the-Hedges (01280 701641); Red Lion, Evesley (01280 703469); Crewe Arms, Hinton-in-the-Hedges (01280 703314).

Nearby attractions: Stowe Landscape Gardens (National Trust), 500 acres, 11 lakes, 32 garden temples designed by Vanbrugh, Kent, Gibbs (01280 822850); Rousham House, near Steeple Aston, is an uncommenced, family-owned 17th-century house. Contemporary furniture and pictures. Kent designed gardens. Long-horned cattle herd (01869 34100). Crowthorn Pottery, Townend Farm, Crowthorn (01869 810299). Banbury Tourist Office, 8 Horsefair, Banbury, Oxon OX16 0AA (01295 258855).

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
0171 481 1989 (TRADE)
0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)

TRAVEL

FAX: 0171 782 7824

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

India
A new dimension
Summer/Winter
Beach front health resort - 1995
Palace in the desert - 1995
Call us for the new brochure
TEL: 0181 452 3388
SHILLING & SONS
100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE & ITALY SPECIALS
FRANCE - 450, 450, 450, 450
CITY BREAKS - 450, 450, 450, 450
Call us for the new brochure
TEL: 0181 452 3388
SHILLING & SONS
100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

CITY BREAKS

EURO BREAK
Now with lower prices
from 1 April - 31 December
0181 7807700
Inghams

FRANCE

ALPES - 450, 450, 450, 450
Call us for the new brochure
TEL: 0181 452 3388
SHILLING & SONS
100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

ALPES - 450, 450, 450, 450

Call us for the new brochure

TEL: 0181 452 3388

SHILLING & SONS

100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

FRANCE

ARLES - 450, 450, 450, 450
Call us for the new brochure
TEL: 0181 452 3388
SHILLING & SONS
100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

ALPES - 450, 450, 450, 450

Call us for the new brochure

TEL: 0181 452 3388

SHILLING & SONS

100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

FRANCE

ARLES - 450, 450, 450, 450
Call us for the new brochure
TEL: 0181 452 3388
SHILLING & SONS
100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

ALPES - 450, 450, 450, 450

Call us for the new brochure

TEL: 0181 452 3388

SHILLING & SONS

100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

FRANCE

ARLES - 450, 450, 450, 450
Call us for the new brochure
TEL: 0181 452 3388
SHILLING & SONS
100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

ALPES - 450, 450, 450, 450

Call us for the new brochure

TEL: 0181 452 3388

SHILLING & SONS

100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

FRANCE

ARLES - 450, 450, 450, 450
Call us for the new brochure
TEL: 0181 452 3388
SHILLING & SONS
100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

ALPES - 450, 450, 450, 450

Call us for the new brochure

TEL: 0181 452 3388

SHILLING & SONS

100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

FRANCE

ARLES - 450, 450, 450, 450
Call us for the new brochure
TEL: 0181 452 3388
SHILLING & SONS
100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

ALPES - 450, 450, 450, 450

Call us for the new brochure

TEL: 0181 452 3388

SHILLING & SONS

100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

FRANCE

ARLES - 450, 450, 450, 450
Call us for the new brochure
TEL: 0181 452 3388
SHILLING & SONS
100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

ALPES - 450, 450, 450, 450

Call us for the new brochure

TEL: 0181 452 3388

SHILLING & SONS

100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

FRANCE

ARLES - 450, 450, 450, 450
Call us for the new brochure
TEL: 0181 452 3388
SHILLING & SONS
100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

ALPES - 450, 450, 450, 450

Call us for the new brochure

TEL: 0181 452 3388

SHILLING & SONS

100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

FRANCE

ARLES - 450, 450, 450, 450
Call us for the new brochure
TEL: 0181 452 3388
SHILLING & SONS
100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

CITY BREAKS

FRANCE

ALPES - 450, 450, 450, 450

Call us for the new brochure

TEL: 0181 452 3388

SHILLING & SONS

100 FIVE STAR HOTELS

ENJOY A SUPERB ESCORTED BREAK TO
Prague
5 DAYS FROM £349*

Departures by scheduled air in July and August 1997

Join us on a delightful, fully escorted, five day break and discover why Prague is known as "the Paris of eastern Europe".

ENJOY FREE EXCURSIONS & VISITS

- The old city of Prague including guided sightseeing
- The famous spa resorts of Karlovy Vary and Marienbad plus the scenery of Western Bohemia.

We also include in the price

- Return scheduled flights from Manchester, Stansted or Heathrow to Prague
- Four nights en suite at the 3-star Hotel Belvedere in central Prague with buffet breakfast
- The services of an experienced tour manager

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CALL NOW

01709 839 839

Weekdays 9am - 5pm, Saturdays 10am - 4pm, Sundays 10am - 4pm

OR RETURN THE COUPON

Leger LEGER AIR HOLIDAYS LTD
CANNLOW MEADOWS,
ROTHERHAM S60 2XR

Please send me details of your Prague holiday

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

LEGER, CANNLOW MEADOWS, ROTHERHAM S60 2XR

THE FASTEST COACH SERVICE TO EUROPE

PARIS £39 RTN

AMSTERDAM £39 RTN

DISNEYLAND PARIS £44 RTN

ANTWERP/BRUXELLES £39 RTN

BRUSSELS £39 RTN

BERLIN £118 RTN

HAMBURG £39 RTN

WANNOVER £39 RTN

All departures from Victoria Coach Station, London.

*Under 26 and over 60 valid for travel until 30.9.97.

Ask for details. Subject to availability.

Call your travel agent or ring

0990 240 241

CITYSPRINT

Call your travel agent or ring

0990 240 241

CITYSPRINT

Call your travel agent or ring

0990 240 241

CITYSPRINT

Paris

EUROSTAR

plus 2 nights

hotel from

£109 pp

until 30th June 1997

BOOK NOW!

PHONE 01992 456000

OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

PARIS TRAVEL SERVICE

100 Victoria Road

Stoke Newington, London SE16 5JL

01992 456000

OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

PARIS TRAVEL SERVICE

100 Victoria Road

Stoke Newington, London SE16 5JL

01992 456000

OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

PARIS TRAVEL SERVICE

100 Victoria Road

Stoke Newington, London SE16 5JL

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ESCAPE ROUTE

IN AUSTRALIA

Get it all out of your system on an all-action

Contiki tour. Fly to Oz with Austravel from \$499

return and experience the ultimate escape.

CONTIKI SYDNEY-CAIRNS 15 DAY TOUR

Hit Surfers Paradise. Go bananas on the Great

Barrier Reef. Chill out on a cattle station.

CONTIKI PERTH-DARWIN 26 DAY TOUR

Feed the dolphins. Ride a camel. Go wild in the

Outback.

Tours from \$48 per day include: accommodation

in lodges, resorts & hotels, transportation,

most meals, sightseeing and Contiki Crew.

CALL: AUSTRAVEL'S GREAT ESCAPE SHOP

0171 584 0202

152 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London SW1

0171 584 0202

152 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London SW1

0171 584 0202

152 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London SW1

0171 584 0202

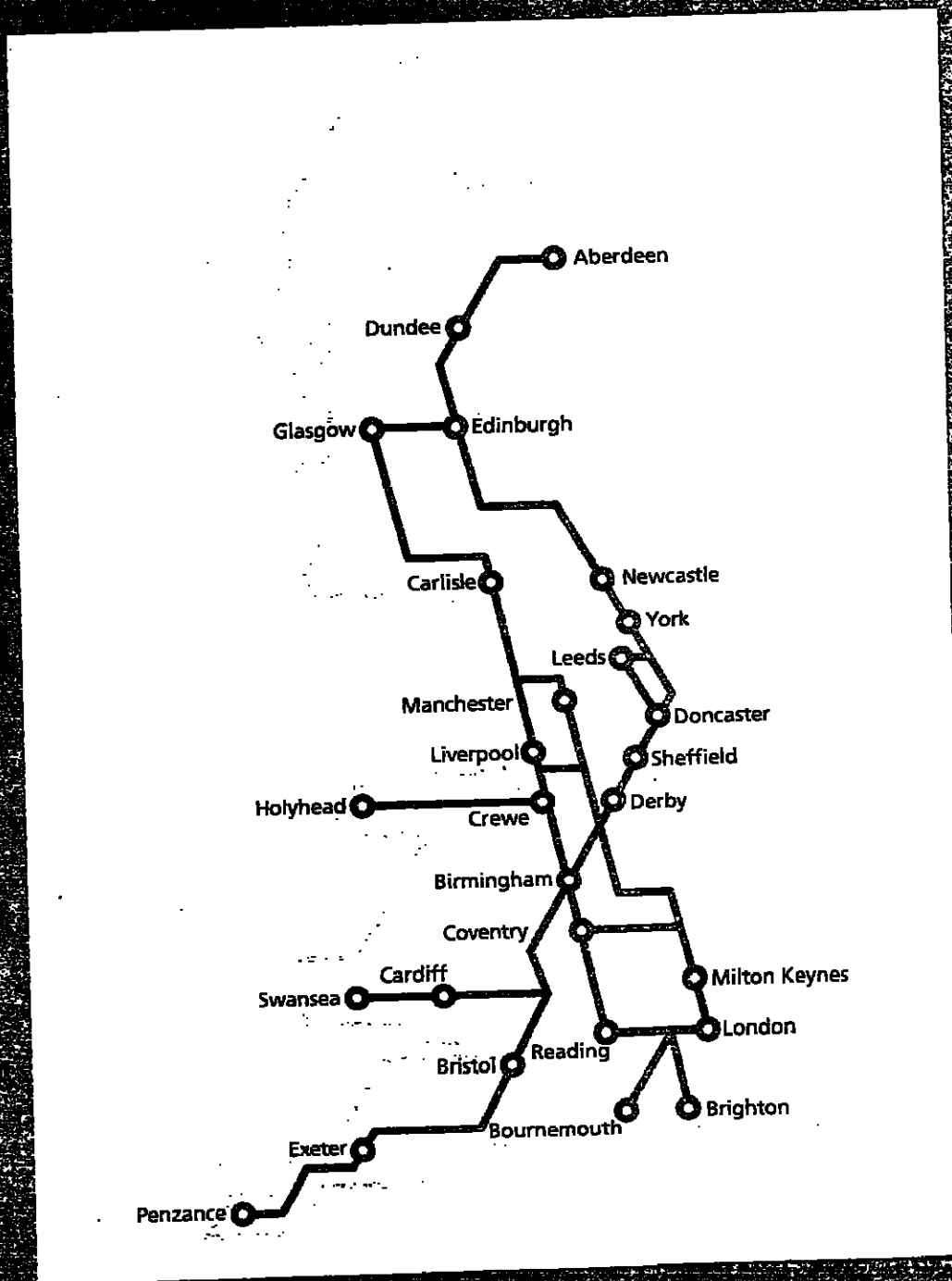
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ESCAPE ROUTE

IN AUSTRALIA

Get it all out of your system on an all-action

Contiki tour. Fly

THE VIRGIN TRAINS OFFER. GET ON BOARD TOMORROW.



Starting tomorrow, The Sunday Times brings you the Virgin Trains offer. Travel to over a hundred destinations in the UK for just £5 to £20 return. See the Travel section in The Sunday Times tomorrow for details.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

DESPITE an exciting victory in the first game of his match against the IBM Deep Blue computer, Kasparov crashed badly to round two against the silicon monster. He chose an unwise defence, as Black, which condemned him to constant passivity, and just as he was about to leap out and force a draw, Kasparov lost all faith in his position and sensationally resigned.

Some experts have speculated wildly that the machine's play so closely resembled that of Kasparov, his arch-rival, that Kasparov simply lost heart. Others of us prefer to believe that the stress of defending against insurmountable pressure caused his seeming breakdown.

W: Deep Blue, B: Kasparov

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5 a6 4 Bb4 Nf6
5 O-O Be7

I question whether this is the right approach against Deep Blue. True, the closed defence to the Ruy Lopez, which Kasparov adopted here, leads to a blocked situation in which computers do not usually excel. However, the published theory on this line is so extensive, and Deep Blue has been so well programmed with information, that it can traverse the opening phase by rote as it were, simply following grandmaster examples and maintaining a slight edge without endangering its prospects by a strategic blunder.

This is the kind of position where, left to its own devices, Deep Blue might have lashed out with the weakening advance g4 as in the first of these games. But with its memory banks packed with examples of grandmaster play, it can hardly go wrong. From now on, White dictates on both flanks.

13... Nf5 14 Be2 e5
15 b3 Nc6 16 d5 Ne7
17 Bc3 Ng5 18 Qd2 Nh7
19 a4

Penetration down the a-file will form a major theme.

19... Nh4 20 Nh4 Qxh4
21 Qe2 Qd8 22 b4 Qd7
23 Rc1 c4 24 Ra3 Rees
25 Rf3 Qd8

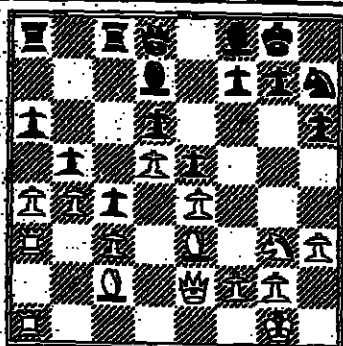
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Steinsapir - Estrin, Moscow 1949.

The black major pieces are poised menacingly on the open files leading into the white position. How did he now make the most of this?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the *Times* magazine, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's in the Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.



26 f4. A well-timed advance. Either Black captures on f4, exposing his d6-pawn, or he allows White to take on e5, when White's d-pawn will become passed.

26... Nf6 27 fxe5 dxe5
28 Qf1 Ne8 29 Qf2 Nc6
30 Bb6 Qe8 31 Rf2 Be7
32 Be5 Rf8 33 Nf5

Further restricting Black's options.

33... Bxf5 34 exd5 f6

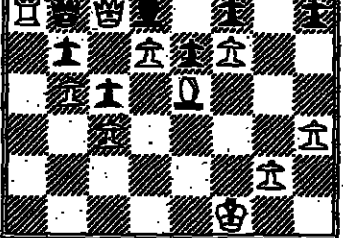
35 Bxd6 Bxd6 36 axb5 axb5

37 Be4

White is poised to smash into Black's position down the a-file.

The text was widely praised at the time, blockading Black's final options as it does, but in the light of subsequent analysis, 37 Qb6 might have been better.

37... Rxe2 38 Qxe2 Qd7
39 Qd7 Rf7 40 Qb6 Rb7
41 Rf4 Kf7 42 Qe6 Qc7
43 Qe8 Qb6 44 Kf1 Rb8
45 Ra6



Black resigns. Depressed by the anachronistic tactics of the machine, Kasparov now chose to capitulate.

Amazingly, he missed a certain draw with 45... Qe5 46 Qxd6 Re8 (the saving move) 47 Bb3 Qc4 48 Kf2 Qd2+ however White plays, Black will ultimately gain a draw by perpetual check with his queen.

13... Nf5 14 Be2 e5
15 b3 Nc6 16 d5 Ne7
17 Bc3 Ng5 18 Qd2 Nh7
19 a4

Penetration down the a-file will form a major theme.

19... Nh4 20 Nh4 Qxh4
21 Qe2 Qd8 22 b4 Qd7
23 Rc1 c4 24 Ra3 Rees
25 Rf3 Qd8

Black to play. This position is from the game Steinsapir - Estrin, Moscow 1949.

The black major pieces are poised menacingly on the open files leading into the white position. How did he now make the most of this?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the *Times* magazine, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's in the Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

13... Nf5 14 Be2 e5
15 b3 Nc6 16 d5 Ne7
17 Bc3 Ng5 18 Qd2 Nh7
19 a4

Penetration down the a-file will form a major theme.

19... Nh4 20 Nh4 Qxh4
21 Qe2 Qd8 22 b4 Qd7
23 Rc1 c4 24 Ra3 Rees
25 Rf3 Qd8

PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 51, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 14.



At their first meeting the Cabinet realised that Mr Blair was a cross dresser

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Andrew Pellow of Barry, Glamorgan

STILL no news of the release of Disney's spin-off game featured in its live action version of *101 Dalmatians*. In the interim, this month the company launches 101 *Dalmatians* Print Studio and the 101 *Dalmatians* CD-Rom, the latest in Disney's Animated Story-Book series.

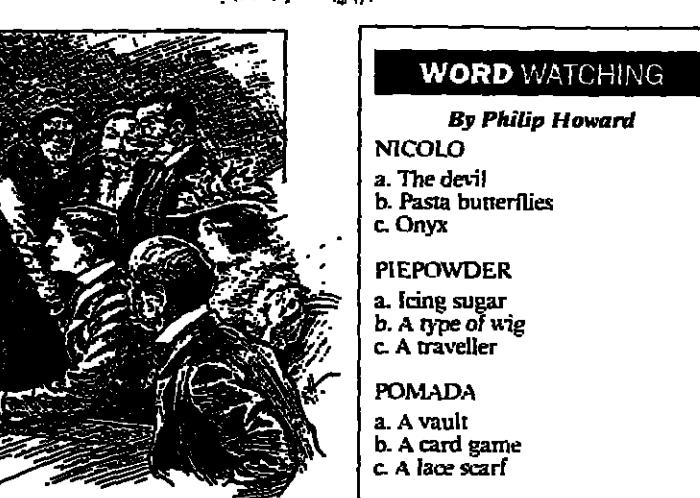
Both are hits with children but adults will find themselves playing with the blissful print studio. The 19 personalised projects include certificates, colouring pages, growth charts, letterheads, faxes and invitations easily put together from a wide selection of cute puppy images, text, borders and backgrounds. The results, whether in colour or monochrome, are impressive but more freestyle handwriting fonts would improve it.

There is nothing Mickey Mouse about our star prize for *Cyberspace Thirty-One* - a luxury weekend for two in Rome. Sponsored by GT Interactive and tying in with its Ancient Rome mystery on CD-Rom, SPQR, readers were asked to review any game in their collection. Typical of the high standard of entries was that from Edward Schroeder of Welwyn Garden City, who reviewed the Maxis PC game *Simcopter*. He wrote: "The graphics are brilliant, but the people you are catching look as if they have been decapitated. Game play is quite good. Missions range from fires to captured-boat dramas."

"Medical missions are enjoyable and you get a real sense of satisfaction knowing you have saved a bunch of pixels from certain doom. The crime missions are completely different, however. You can dump a policeman next to an arsonist and she will just stand there waving to you."

George Smolinski, of Countesshorpe, Lincolnshire, enthused about BMG's *Quest for Fame*. He wrote: "For any wannabe guitarists, in my case aged forty-something, this is the programme. Plug in the virtual pick to the printer port and hit power-chords against a tennis racket. As your 'v-pick' virtuosity improves, the rhythm EKG displays the timing needed for your strumming patterns to climb the slippery rock and roll ladder. Practice in the bedroom leads to jam sessions with a garage band, gigs at increasingly large venues and, eventually, a recording contract. This is a brilliant interactive CD-Rom where success depends on riffs air-phrasing."

Tim Burrows of Greenwich, south London, was another of the many reviewers of *Tomb Raider*. He compared Eidos Interactive's bestseller to television's *Challenge Anneka*. "This is not the PC version of the TV show but you soon spot the similarities," he wrote. "Forget first-person perspective games,



At their first meeting the Cabinet realised that Mr Blair was a cross dresser

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Andrew Pellow of Barry, Glamorgan

STILL no news of the release of Disney's spin-off game featured in its live action version of *101 Dalmatians*. In the interim, this month the company launches 101 *Dalmatians* Print Studio and the 101 *Dalmatians* CD-Rom, the latest in Disney's Animated Story-Book series.

Both are hits with children but adults will find themselves playing with the blissful print studio. The 19 personalised projects include certificates, colouring pages, growth charts, letterheads, faxes and invitations easily put together from a wide selection of cute puppy images, text, borders and backgrounds. The results, whether in colour or monochrome, are impressive but more freestyle handwriting fonts would improve it.

There is nothing Mickey Mouse about our star prize for *Cyberspace Thirty-One* - a luxury weekend for two in Rome. Sponsored by GT Interactive and tying in with its Ancient Rome mystery on CD-Rom, SPQR, readers were asked to review any game in their collection. Typical of the high standard of entries was that from Edward Schroeder of Welwyn Garden City, who reviewed the Maxis PC game *Simcopter*. He wrote: "The graphics are brilliant, but the people you are catching look as if they have been decapitated. Game play is quite good. Missions range from fires to captured-boat dramas."

"Medical missions are enjoyable and you get a real sense of satisfaction knowing you have saved a bunch of pixels from certain doom. The crime missions are completely different, however. You can dump a policeman next to an arsonist and she will just stand there waving to you."

George Smolinski, of Countesshorpe, Lincolnshire, enthused about BMG's *Quest for Fame*. He wrote: "For any wannabe guitarists, in my case aged forty-something, this is the programme. Plug in the virtual pick to the printer port and hit power-chords against a tennis racket. As your 'v-pick' virtuosity improves, the rhythm EKG displays the timing needed for your strumming patterns to climb the slippery rock and roll ladder. Practice in the bedroom leads to jam sessions with a garage band, gigs at increasingly large venues and, eventually, a recording contract. This is a brilliant interactive CD-Rom where success depends on riffs air-phrasing."

Tim Burrows of Greenwich, south London, was another of the many reviewers of *Tomb Raider*. He compared Eidos Interactive's bestseller to television's *Challenge Anneka*. "This is not the PC version of the TV show but you soon spot the similarities," he wrote. "Forget first-person perspective games,

aliens and only you can stem their domination. You play the improbably named hero Damon who must face the alien challenge over 17 missions set in various landscapes such as the barren wastes of Silverstone or claustrophobic Monaco. In these missions, Damon must chase the invading forces around a series of set courses, smashing them to oblivion with his

craft, a task made easier as the alien tactics consist of thrashing along at a million miles an hour and then standing on the brakes at every bend. There is a hidden level, where the player may take the part of Nigel, a hero from the past with yet another silly name. No advantage is added by doing this however, adding to the realism of the game."

Our ten runners up, who each scoop copies of SPQR and a trendy T-shirt, are the other entrants mentioned here plus Daniel Garner of Nuneston, Martin Apps of Ashford, Kent, Catriona Kathaus of Northumberland, Simon Tordur of Battersea, south London, and Paul Drew of Braintree, Essex, whose entries featured in earlier columns, as well as Robin Dainton of Churchdown, Gloucestershire and Steve Cole of London. Judging the competition was no easy task and, as always, thank you to all who entered.

This week's Top Tip comes from Angie Polkey of Emsworth, Hampshire. "Want to upgrade your old dot matrix printer but can't afford a laser model? Save money and instantly improve the quality of your documents by simply joining up the dots with a felt pen."

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NICOLO

a. The devil
b. Pasta butterflies
c. Onyx

PIEPOWDER

a. Icing sugar
b. A type of wig
c. A traveller

POMADA

a. A vault
b. A card game
c. A lace scarf

NESCIENCE

a. Ignorance
b. Excused science at Harrow
c. An Alpine perennial

Answers on page 20

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



At their first meeting the Cabinet realised that Mr Blair was a cross dresser

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Andrew Pellow of Barry, Glamorgan

STILL no news of the release of Disney's spin-off game featured in its live action version of *101 Dalmatians*. In the interim, this month the company launches 101 *Dalmatians* Print Studio and the 101 *Dalmatians* CD-Rom, the latest in Disney's Animated Story-Book series.

Both are hits with children but adults will find themselves playing with the blissful print studio. The 19 personalised projects include certificates, colouring pages, growth charts, letterheads, faxes and invitations easily put together from a wide selection of cute puppy images, text, borders and backgrounds. The results, whether in colour or monochrome, are impressive but more freestyle handwriting fonts would improve it.

There is nothing Mickey Mouse about our star prize for *Cyberspace Thirty-One* - a luxury weekend for two in Rome. Sponsored by GT Interactive and tying in with its Ancient Rome mystery on CD-Rom, SPQR, readers were asked to review any game in their collection. Typical of the high standard of entries was that from Edward Schroeder of Welwyn Garden City, who reviewed the Maxis PC game *Simcopter*. He wrote: "The graphics are brilliant, but the people you are catching look as if they have been decapitated. Game play is quite good. Missions range from fires to captured-boat dramas."

"Medical missions are enjoyable and you get a real sense of satisfaction knowing you have saved a bunch of pixels from certain doom. The crime missions are completely different, however. You can dump a policeman next to an arsonist and she will just stand there waving to you."

George Smolinski, of Countesshorpe, Lincolnshire, enthused about BMG's *Quest for Fame*. He wrote: "For any wannabe guitarists, in my case aged forty-something, this is the programme. Plug in the virtual pick to the printer port and hit power-chords against a tennis racket. As your 'v-pick' virtuosity improves, the rhythm EKG displays the timing needed for your strumming patterns to climb the slippery rock and roll ladder. Practice in the bedroom leads to jam sessions with a garage band, gigs at increasingly large venues and, eventually, a recording contract. This is a brilliant interactive CD-Rom where success depends on riffs air-phrasing."

Tim Burrows of Greenwich, south London, was another of the many reviewers of *Tomb Raider*. He compared Eidos Interactive's bestseller to television's *Challenge Anneka*. "This is not the PC version of the TV show but you soon spot the similarities," he wrote. "Forget first-person perspective games,

aliens and only you can stem their domination. You play the improbably named hero Damon who must face the alien challenge over 17 missions set in various landscapes such as the barren wastes of Silverstone or claustrophobic Monaco. In these missions, Damon must chase the invading forces around a series of set courses, smashing them to oblivion with his

craft, a task made easier as the alien tactics consist of thrashing along at a million miles an hour and then standing on the brakes at every bend. There is a hidden level, where the player may take the part of Nigel, a hero from the past with yet another silly name. No advantage is added by doing this however, adding to the realism of the game."

Our ten runners up, who each scoop copies of SPQR and a trendy T-shirt, are the other entrants mentioned here plus Daniel Garner of Nuneston, Martin Apps of Ashford, Kent, Catriona Kathaus of Northumberland, Simon Tordur of Battersea, south London, and Paul Drew of Braintree, Essex, whose entries featured in earlier columns, as well as Robin Dainton of Churchdown, Gloucestershire and Steve Cole of London. Judging the competition was no easy task and, as always, thank you to all who entered.

This week's Top Tip comes from Angie Polkey of Emsworth, Hampshire. "Want to upgrade your old dot matrix printer but can't afford a laser model? Save money and instantly improve the quality of your documents by simply joining up the dots with a felt pen."

Our ten runners up, who each scoop copies of SPQR and a trendy T-shirt, are the other entrants mentioned here plus Daniel Garner of Nuneston, Martin Apps of Ashford, Kent, Catriona Kathaus of Northumberland, Simon Tordur of Battersea, south London, and Paul Drew of Braintree, Essex, whose entries featured in earlier columns, as well as Robin Dainton of Churchdown, Gloucestershire and Steve Cole of London. Judging the competition was no easy task and, as always, thank you to all who entered.

This week's Top Tip comes from Angie Polkey of Emsworth, Hampshire. "Want to upgrade your old dot matrix printer but can't afford a laser model? Save money and instantly improve the quality of your documents by simply joining up the dots with a felt pen."

Our ten runners up, who each scoop copies of SPQR and a trendy T-shirt, are the other entrants mentioned here plus Daniel Garner of Nuneston, Martin Apps of Ashford, Kent, Catriona Kathaus of Northumberland, Simon Tordur of Battersea, south London, and Paul Drew of Braintree, Essex, whose entries featured in earlier columns, as well as Robin Dainton of Churchdown, Gloucestershire and Steve Cole of London. Judging the competition was no easy task and, as always, thank you to all who entered.

This week's Top Tip comes from Angie Polkey of Emsworth, Hampshire. "Want to upgrade your old dot matrix printer but can't afford a laser model? Save money and instantly improve the quality of your documents by simply joining up the dots with a felt pen."

Our ten runners up, who each scoop copies of SPQR and a trendy T-shirt, are the other entrants mentioned here plus Daniel Garner of Nuneston, Martin Apps of Ashford, Kent, Catriona Kathaus of Northumberland, Simon Tordur of Battersea, south London, and Paul Drew of Braintree, Essex, whose entries featured in earlier columns, as well as Robin Dainton of Churchdown, Gloucestershire and Steve Cole of London. Judging the competition was no easy task and, as always, thank you to all who entered.

This week's Top Tip comes from Angie Polkey of Emsworth, Hampshire. "Want to upgrade your old dot matrix printer but can't afford a laser model? Save money and instantly improve the quality of your documents by simply joining up the dots with a felt pen."

Our ten runners up, who each scoop copies of SPQR and a trendy T-shirt, are the other entrants mentioned here plus Daniel Garner of Nuneston, Martin Apps of Ashford, Kent, Catriona Kathaus of Northumberland, Simon Tordur of Battersea, south London, and Paul Drew of Braintree, Essex, whose entries featured in earlier columns, as well as Robin Dainton of Churchdown, Gloucestershire and Steve Cole of London. Judging the competition was no easy task and, as always, thank you to all who entered.

This week's Top Tip comes from Angie Polkey of Emsworth, Hampshire. "Want to upgrade your old dot matrix printer but can't afford a laser model? Save money and instantly improve the quality of your documents by simply joining up the dots with a felt pen."

Our ten runners up, who each scoop copies of SPQR and a trendy T-shirt, are the other entrants mentioned here plus Daniel Garner of Nuneston, Martin Apps of Ashford, Kent, Catriona Kathaus of Northumberland, Simon Tordur of Battersea, south London, and Paul Drew of Braintree, Essex, whose entries featured in earlier columns, as well as Robin Dainton of Churchdown, Gloucestershire and Steve Cole of London. Judging the competition was no easy task and, as always, thank you to all who entered.

This week's Top Tip comes from Angie Polkey of Emsworth, Hampshire. "Want to upgrade your old dot matrix printer but can't afford a laser model? Save money and instantly improve the quality of your documents by simply joining up the dots with a felt pen."

Our ten runners up, who each scoop copies of SPQR and a trendy T-shirt, are the other entrants mentioned here plus Daniel Garner of Nuneston, Martin Apps of Ashford, Kent, Catriona Kathaus of Northumberland, Simon Tordur of Battersea, south London, and Paul Drew of Braintree, Essex, whose entries featured in earlier columns, as well as Robin Dainton of Churchdown, Gloucestershire and Steve Cole of London. Judging the competition was no easy task and, as always, thank you to all who entered.

This week's Top Tip comes from Angie Polkey of Emsworth, Hampshire. "Want to upgrade your old dot matrix printer but can't afford a laser model? Save money and instantly improve the quality of your documents by simply joining up the dots with a felt pen."

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

AFTER A PLAY-OFF between the leading performers in the 1996/7 Premier League, the selectors have chosen Gus Calderwood and Dick Shek, Justin and Jason Hackett, and Gerald and Stuart Tredinnick to represent Great Britain in the 1997 European Championships. With Armstrong and Kirby, and Forrester and Robson unavailable, this looks about the best British team. It's the first time two sets of twins have represented Great Britain. The non-playing captain is Tony Friday, with David Burn coach.

This is a hand from the play-off:

Dealer East East-West game IMPs
+K076
+A1084
+A
+QJ107
+5532
+1097843
+K93

Contract: Six Hearts by South
Lead: the five of spades

When Shek and Calderwood sat North-South, they had an artificial sequence in which South asked the questions and North showed a good three-suited hand short in diamonds. Calderwood (South) then settled for Six Hearts without having revealed anything of his own hand to the opposition.

West led the five of spades. Declarer played low from dummy. East played the nine and declarer won with the ace.

Declarer played the king of

hearts and a low heart to the ten.

West discarded diamonds. Now came the queen of clubs, run round to West, who won and returned the two of spades. Declarer won in hand, leaving this (South to play):

+KQ
+A8
+A
+J107
+5532
+1097843
+K93

It seemed likely that West had four spades and East two - if West had three, he would have known that East was not ruffing, and might well have switched to a diamond. (Remember, West knew nothing of South's hand.) That meant declarer's only chance was to find East with at least two more clubs, so he played ace and another club. A fourth round of clubs left East helpless - if he ruffs declarer can overruff, cash his last trump and re-enter dummy with the ace of diamonds to draw East's last trump. If East discards a diamond, South discards a spade and leads a spade winner from dummy - if East ruffs it leads to the same position and if East continues to discard declarer eventually ends up with a high crossruff.

Had West exited with a diamond after winning the king of clubs, a vital entry to dummy would have been removed for the ending I describe above.

Declarer played the king of

hearts and a low heart to the ten.

West discarded diamonds. Now came the queen of clubs, run round to West, who won and returned the two of spades. Declarer won in hand, leaving this (South to play):

+KQ
+A8
+A
+J107
+5532
+1097843
+K93

It seemed likely that West had four spades and East two - if West had three, he would have known that East was not ruffing, and might well have switched to a diamond. (Remember, West knew nothing of South's hand.) That meant declarer's only chance was to find East with at least two more clubs, so he played ace and another club. A fourth round of clubs left East helpless - if he ruffs declarer can overruff, cash his last trump and re-enter dummy with the ace of diamonds to draw East's last trump. If East discards a diamond, South discards a spade and leads a spade winner from dummy - if East ruffs it leads to the same position and if East continues to discard declarer eventually ends up with a high crossruff.

Had West exited with a diamond after winning the king of clubs, a vital entry to dummy would have been removed for the ending I describe above.

Declarer played the king of

hearts and a low heart to the ten.

West discarded diamonds. Now came the queen of clubs, run round to West, who won and returned the two of spades. Declarer won in hand, leaving this (South to play):

+KQ
+A8
+A
+J107
+5532
+1097843
+K93

It seemed likely that West had four spades and East two - if West had three, he would have known that East was not ruffing, and might well have switched to a diamond. (Remember, West knew nothing of South's hand.) That meant declarer's only chance was to find East with at least two more clubs, so he played ace and another club. A fourth round of clubs left East helpless - if he ruffs declarer can overruff, cash his last trump and re-enter dummy with the ace of diamonds to draw East's last trump. If East discards a diamond, South discards a spade and leads a spade winner from dummy - if East ruffs it leads to the same position and if East continues to discard declarer eventually ends up with a high crossruff.

Had West exited with a diamond after winning the king of clubs, a vital entry to dummy would have been removed for the ending I describe above.

Declarer played the king of

hearts and a low heart to the ten.

West discarded diamonds. Now came the queen of clubs, run round to West, who won and returned the two of spades. Declarer won in hand, leaving this (South to play):

+KQ
+A8
+A
+J107
+5532
+1097843
+K93

It seemed likely that West had four spades and East two - if West had three, he would have known that East was not ruffing, and might well have switched to a diamond. (Remember, West knew nothing of South's hand.) That meant declarer's only chance was to find East with at least two more clubs, so he played ace and another club. A fourth round of clubs left East helpless - if he ruffs declarer can overruff, cash his last trump and re-enter dummy with the ace of diamonds to draw East's last trump. If East discards a diamond, South discards a spade and leads a spade winner from dummy - if East ruffs it leads to the same position and if East continues to discard declarer eventually ends up with a high crossruff.

Had West exited with a diamond after winning the king of clubs, a vital entry to dummy would have been removed for the ending I describe above.

Declarer played the king of

hearts and a low heart to the ten.

West discarded diamonds. Now came the queen of clubs, run round to West, who won and returned the two of spades. Declarer won in hand, leaving this (South to play):

+KQ
+A8
+A
+J107
+5532
+1097843
+K93

It seemed likely that West had four spades and East two - if West had three, he would have known that East was not ruffing, and might well have switched to a diamond. (Remember, West knew nothing of South's hand.) That meant declarer's only chance was to find East with at least two more clubs, so he played ace and another club. A fourth round of clubs left East helpless - if he ruffs declarer can overruff, cash his last trump and re-enter dummy with the ace of diamonds to draw East's last trump. If East discards a diamond, South discards a spade and leads a spade winner from dummy - if East ruffs it leads to the same position and if East continues to discard declarer eventually ends up with a high crossruff.

Had West exited with a diamond after winning the king of clubs, a vital entry to dummy would have been removed for the ending I describe above.

Declarer played the king of

hearts and a low heart to the ten.

West discarded diamonds. Now came the queen of clubs, run round to West, who won and returned the two of spades. Declarer won in hand, leaving this (South to play):

+KQ
+A8
+A
+J107
+5532
+1097843
+K93



High-speed shopping trolley with working wheels

Page 3



The Hog trough that is a shrine to iron beasts

Page 10



SATURDAY MAY 10 1997

Alan Copps finds the style, performance and range of gadgetry offered by Mercedes-Benz's new coupé positively electric



Not so much souped-up saloon as grand tourer for four, offering all those Mercedes attributes of smoothness, comfort, solidity and safety combined with impressive, but carefully calculated performance

CLK, a cut-off above the rest

What is a coupé? The French word means "cut off", and to most drivers suggests a saloon shortened and lowered to provide performance at the expense of space. Many are like that. But Mercedes-Benz's new CLK is the opposite, both literally and in character. It's very much a grown-up car rather than a cut-down one.

Underneath is a much-modified C-class chassis, the same in width and wheelbase but lengthened to accommodate the sweeping lines of this car and its astonishing load of electronic gadgetry. So it falls neatly between the C-Class and the E-Class coupé which it replaces. The result is not so much souped-up saloon as grand tourer for four, offering all those famous Mercedes attributes of smoothness, comfort, solidity and safety combined with impressive, but carefully calculated performance.

This car is aimed squarely at the favourite floating voter of campaigners in the car market — the "user chooser", who comes in two versions: the senior executive who can have any company car he/she wants within a given price range, and the entrepreneur, the small business owner or professional who may only employ a handful of staff but does a lot of driving and buys a car as a company asset, though it may also provide family transport.

Such drivers are expected to account for more than half the British sales of the CLK, which Mercedes predicts to run at up to 3,000 a year. It has already taken 1,300 orders, even though the car will not be available for another six weeks or so. It will take five months for the company to clear that backlog of orders, says Walter Greaves, passenger cars director for Britain. "The car will appeal to a much wider audience than its predecessor, thanks partly to a lower entry point which means a

MERCEDES CLK

Engine: Four-cylinder, 136bhp 2-litre; supercharged four-cylinder 193bhp 2.3-litre, or 3.2-litre 218bhp V6.

Transmission: Five-speed manual or automatic (auto only on V6).

Performance: CLK 200 0-62mph in 11 secs, top speed 130mph; 230 Kompressor

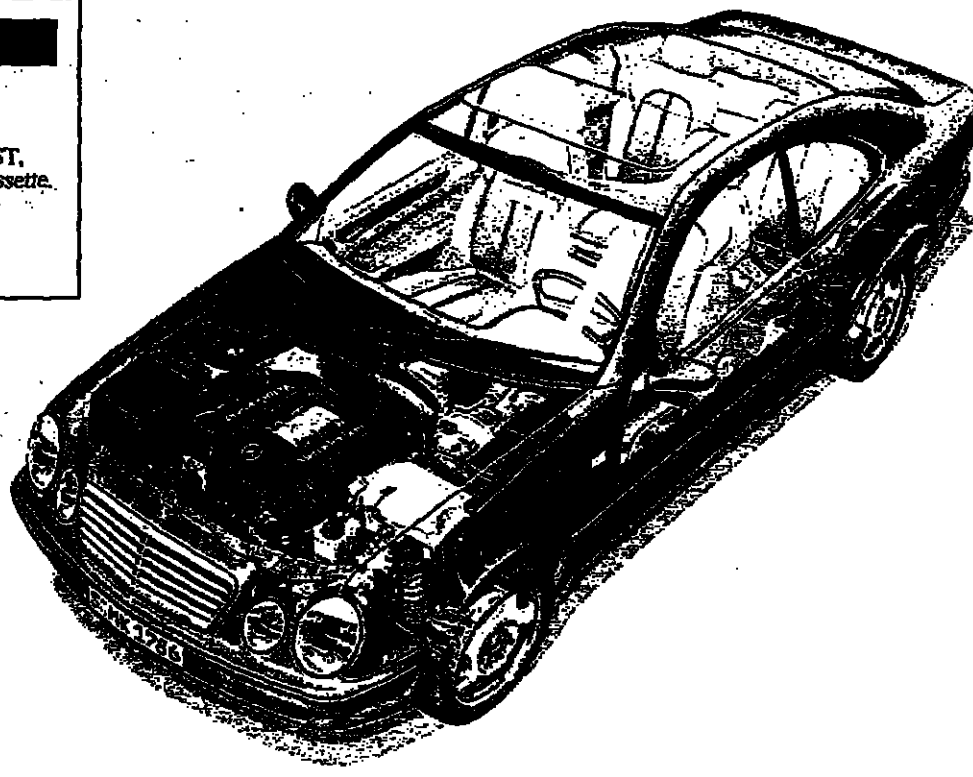
0-62mph in 8.4 secs/146mph; V6 0-62mph in 7.4 secs/150mph.

Equipment: ABS, ASR, BAS, ASSYST, twin airbags, eight-speaker radio cassette.

Prices: CLK 200 £26,400; CLK Kompressor £30,840; CLK 320 V6 £36,640.



High technology dominates the cabin, while under the bonnet is the 2-litre engine from the C-class, the powerful V6 or the supercharged four-cylinder engine from the SLK



CLK can be delivered fully equipped for £26,400.

The CLK is being produced in the same plant at Bremen where the company makes the fabulously successful SLK roadster. There is a two-year waiting list for that car and Mercedes has taken on 500 extra staff to try to meet demand. Nevertheless, nearly-new examples of the SLK are changing hands at up to £10,000 above the list price. Mercedes is confident the waiting time for the CLK will not be so long and the production line is geared up to produce 43,000 cars a year.

What you get for £26,400 is a car with the 2-litre engine from the C-class. It's an aggressive bit of

pricing that poses a strong challenge to BMW, whose 3-series currently dominates the smart coupé market, and to the newly-launched Volvo C70, which will be available in Britain this year only in its most upmarket form, costing £10,000 more. That's about the same as the top-of-the-range CLK, which comes with Mercedes' newly-developed, smooth and powerful V6 engine. It also comes with the supercharged four-cylinder engine from the SLK.

In all three versions, the CLK is an excellent car to drive. Despite the intimidating list of electronic equipment which promises to govern just about every function per-

formed by the human behind the wheel, thanks to the traditional rear wheel drive layout it can still provide the enthusiastic motorist with driving pleasure as well as smooth transport.

You are made aware of these electronics even before you get in. For the ignition key has been replaced by DAS, the driver authorisation system, a plastic peg that conceals a microchip to communicate with door locks, ignition, alarm and immobiliser.

Press the button once and the driver's door opens, press twice and both doors open, hold the button

down and the doors, windows and sunroof all open. Plug your DAS into the dashboard and, depending on the model, the warning lights will indicate the familiar ABS for anti-lock brakes, ASR for acceleration skid control, BAS for brake assist system (which detects emergencies and boosts stopping power) and ASSYST, the active service system which constantly monitors the state of the engine. This last takes into account the mileage and the way in which the car is used and can extend the service intervals up to 18,000 miles in the hands of a careful driver.

There are two trim levels, which cost the same, in each engine size.

The Elegance has softer suspension, exit lights, illuminated vanity mirrors and walnut facings, while the Sport offers a firmer ride and has an interior similar to the SLK with ivory-faced instruments and carbon-fibre style trim; it doesn't look quite so compelling in this air-conditioned grand tourer as it does in the little roadster.

But there is one thing in which the Sport version excels. Like any fashionable car these days, it has a cup-holder, the most sophisticated I have encountered. It springs from a panel on the central console and unfolds before your eyes. Next time I drive a CLK I'm going to take a Thermos of tea just so I can use it.

Aiming to make a coup

The fight for the coupé market is hotting up among the prestige car-makers just as two of the world's biggest manufacturers are ending production of their large coupés sold in Britain.

The Ford Probe, which has failed to make anything like the impact of its predecessor, the Capri, and Vauxhall's ageing Calibra will both disappear later this year. Both makers however will be launching smaller coupés.

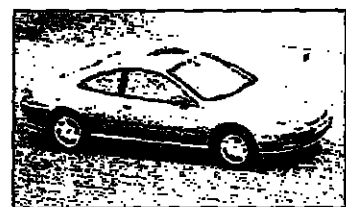
CLK takes on the BMW 3-series, which has a 34 per cent share of the UK market for coupés. But its challenge comes at the same time as that from the impressive Volvo C70, which is a similar car in many respects but offers slightly more legroom in the back. Peugeot has also entered the race with its keenly-priced 406 Coupé based on one of the most highly rated saloons on the road.

At this week's launch, Jürgen Hubbert, Mercedes' director for passenger cars, was confident the CLK will sell well, especially since it is priced at £7,000 less than the model it replaces. "We want to remain a premium manufacturer, not take on the volume makers. But we have to be able to identify new trends in good time."

Mercedes hopes that with the coupé it can repeat its success with the SLK roadster, a car which it thought would sell 100,000 worldwide but for which it is now confident of taking 200,000 orders. But every manufacturer now sees the coupé as the sort of flagship it needs to draw attention to the rest of the range. Which is



Volvo C70: extra legroom



Peugeot 406: keenly priced

why Ford, though abandoning the Probe, will have the likeable and cutely-designed Puma, based on a Fiesta chassis, available by the autumn. Like the tiny Ka micro-car, Ford believes the Puma will look different enough to raise the profile of the rest of its products.

There is also the demographic reason for introducing a coupé into every range: there are simply more people around who do not need four or five doors. The growth of Dinkies (Double Income No Kids) and empty-nesters (couples whose children have left home) means there is spare money looking for a car. Which is why Mercedes is convinced it has a winner. Evidence is growing that buyers are looking beyond conventional choices into cars — such as people-carriers, convertibles and now coupés — which were barely a feature of the marketplace five or ten years ago.

Peugeot 406 road test, page 3

one to



Offer ends June 28th 1997

Which road will the Chancellor take?

We may have to face the fact that realistic prices which raise more duty to fund public services will mean the end of the small garage, most of which have in any event ceased to rely on petrol sales as their main source of income. Every gain entails a loss and we shall have to be hard-headed in measuring the one against the other.

Worlds away from your average Escort

Carlos Sainz could become rally champion in this fiery Ford, but Vaughan Freeman found it useless on a shopping trip

This car breathes fire. Ford's rallying dragon spits out sheets of flame from its huge oval exhaust and emits a devastating bark of engine noise like somebody firing shotguns at five feet.

As crowds gather to stare, fascination turns to fright and alarm as the exhaust blasts away, causing dogs to flee, enthralled youngsters to dance with excitement and anyone sane to cover their ears.

This is Ford's world rally car, a 300bhp, 150mph machine with four-wheel drive, which double world champion Carlos Sainz is piloting in this year's world rally championship. And underneath it all, well hidden by the hard, fluorescent orange paintwork, is a modest Ford Escort, Britain's best-selling family car.

What Sainz is driving, at heart, is a Halewood hatchback, a car designed for going shopping, a handy town runabout. So, what would it be like to take his car out for a typical Sunday on the road? Forget all that sliding sideways through forests stuff. CAR 97 put the Sainz car through the toughest test in today's motoring environment — Sunday shopping.

So, first stop was Tesco. The problem going shopping in a car like the one in which Sainz drives to

work is that it only has two seats. It has no carpets, no ashtray, no cupholders, not even a radio to tune in to the local traffic delays. There is, however, lots of bare, white-painted metal, a gigantic spare wheel that takes up what space is left in the back by the specially-strengthened fuel tank. The two bucket-shaped racing seats in the front are festooned with harnesses that strap, buckle and belt to hold every part of you firmly in place.

ESCORT PLUS

Engine: Turbo-charged 4-cylinder 16-valve 2-litre giving 300bhp with permanent four-wheel drive.
Performance: 0-60 in under five seconds, top speed 150mph or higher.
Economy: Undisclosed, but not likely to win votes from the green lobby.
Equipment: Massive roll-over cage, big net in back.
Price: £300,000-£350,000.

Getting in and out takes an age. Do not make the mistake of buckling in and then trying to shut the door — you will not be able to reach it as these harnesses are not inertia reel. You are stuck, strapped and trussed.

On the move it is as if all the doors and windows are open and the engine is in the cockpit with you. Road and engine noise is hideous, which is why intercom headphones with built-in microphones dangle from the roll-cage so that you and your passenger can talk.

For a thoroughbred racing car, the Escort is surprisingly easy to drive. The clutch is not as thigh-damaging as I had expected, acceleration is thrilling to the point of illegality, but ideal for passing meandering caravans on winding B roads. The four-pot caliper racing brakes on each wheel plus permanent four-wheel drive ensure the car goes where it is pointed and stops when it should.

Once in the Tesco car park however, the car's bad manners become apparent. With aerodynamic body skirts, sleeping policemen are potential bodywork des-

troys and must be approached with extreme caution. The turning circle is appalling, so parking is a nightmare, requiring seven- and eight-point turns to manoeuvre in the shopping throng. Sainz gets it round corners with handbrake turns, not recommended amid the trolleys.

Having collected the shopping, you open the rear hatch to find — the spare wheel. It is huge, with its own stand to support it. Around it is bare metal, no soft carpeting here. The little space available is taken up by a fuel tank, a dangling net suspended from the roof to take odds and ends, the roll-cage, and various high-tech-looking tubes and wires. This is not an environment for a dozen eggs and four bottles of wine.

Would the Escort do better elsewhere? We headed off to the nearest McDonald's drive-through for a large fries and a couple of cheeseburgers. Again, huge problems, first because, like most rally cars, the Escort is left-hand drive. So, having thrashed and struggled to untangle myself from the har-

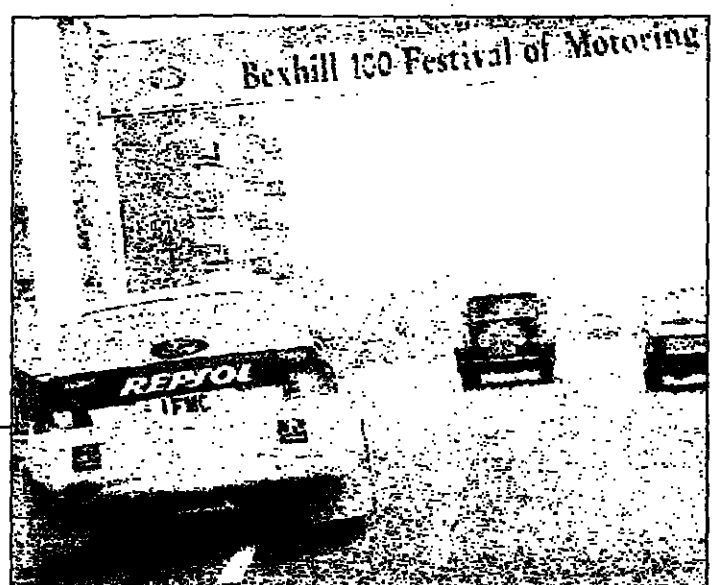
ness, I had to lever myself across the cramped cockpit to shout my order.

Howling sore-throated above the engine's racket, I made myself understood and drove round to collect my meal. As restaurant staff either gawped at the car or cringed away from the snarling exhaust, another lunge across the width of the car enabled me to collect the food. Nil points for convenience.

Where the rally car scores hugely is on the move. Visiting last weekend's Bexhill 100 motoring extravaganza, which happily was marking the 30th anniversary of the first Ford Cosworth grand prix win, the Cosworth-engined Escort drew crowds of admirers and big grins as it snarled and spat its way along the town's seafront. It has massive presence, outrageous street credibility, all underlined by being, just about, recognisably the car driven daily by millions.

There are drawbacks to such a profile and such a noise. The car is impossible to miss, and the heads of police throughout East Sussex swivelled inexorably to watch it pass. This is not a car in which to break the speed limit.

It is a car that plasters a grin from ear to ear over the face of the driver. Like the ultimate fair-ground thrill, it is supreme fun, even if the shopping was ruined.



Freeman ponders the problems of finding room for the shopping in a boot full of spare wheel and fuel tank in an Escort that looks very different from the standard showroom model, top, but drew crowds of admirers on Bexhill seafront

A handsome coupé that gives glamour back to the French

Stuart Birch survives an encounter with goats in the desert to report that the V6 Peugeot 406 is no mirage

Several members of a large herd of Jordanian goats unknowingly owe a debt of gratitude to French car designers. Today, the goats are scratching for nourishment close to the very fast desert road running from the Dead Sea to Aqaba close to the Jordan-Saudi Arabia border. But the other day they were in the middle of that road — at the wrong moment.

As my V6 Peugeot 406 Coupé swept up a gentle slope, an amorphous, black, elongated shape appeared near the brow, shimmering like a mirage in the afternoon heat haze. Identification was difficult. The black shape started to move across the path of the rapidly moving Peugeot. Suddenly it was no longer ethereal; it comprised scores of black goats and a goathead just the other side of the brow.

Brakes, steering, handling, roadholding and general capability of the Coupé were put to the test, its speed was hauled down to zero with minimal drama. The goats wandered on, the goathead waved his thanks. The Peugeot set off south again, dust and sand swirling in its

wake. I had learnt a short sharp lesson about fast driving in this hot and arid land of apparently fluid forms and spurious images — some of them are real.

The reality of the Peugeot 406 Coupé is that it will be on sale at the end of this month and its handsome looks, performance potential and general competence are no mirage.

The car uses the platform of the 406 saloon and offers a choice of 135bhp 2-litre or 194bhp 3-litre engines. But Pininfarina has given it a coupé body of distinguished looks which will provide the range with the glamour it has sadly lacked in recent years.

Peugeot and Pininfarina have collaborated in creating cars of distinctive style for close on half a century, including the 504 Cabriolet and Coupé, and, in the 1980s and 1990s, the 205 and 306 Cabriolets. Despite its links with the 406 saloon, the 406 Coupé

borrows no body panels from it and the result is a car which stands out as a quality product. The interior is also very attractive, although Peugeot drew the line at an all-new fascia, despite dials with chromed bezels, so the saloon origins are clear at once. That is a pity, but Peugeot was determined to ensure that the price would make it highly competitive in a sector of the market dominated in the UK by the BMW 3-series Coupé.

The result means the 406 Coupé's on the road price starts from £20,120 for the 2-litre with sunroof or £20,420 with air conditioning and no sunroof. The top SE model with 3-litre V6 engine is £26,420.

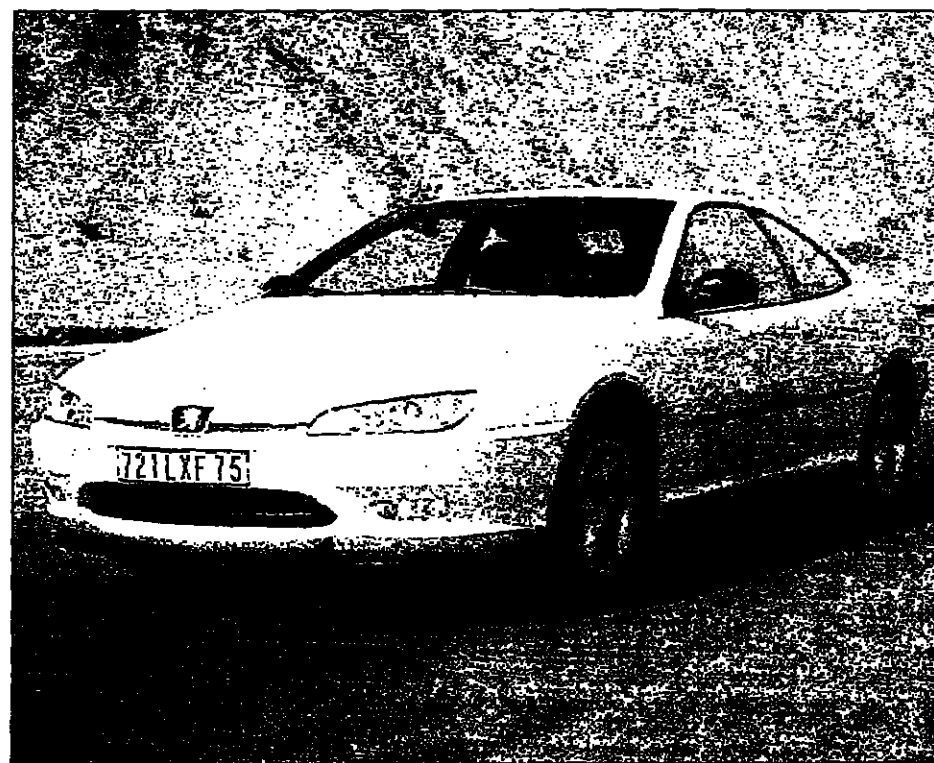
Peugeot chose Jordan to show off the Coupé's potential for coping with long, fast journeys and its ability to handle winding and sometimes poor roads. It did so very convincingly, although the

company stresses that it is not a sports car. It is billed as a full five-seater with comfortable, individually shaped rear seats. For those in the back, however, knee room is limited unless driver and front passengers give up a few inches.

Pininfarina not only designed the 406 Coupé but is also building it. Peugeot is very well aware of the need to ensure that quality is maintained. Each car undergoes a programme of inspections, static tests and a road test.

The 406 is satisfying to drive. The 2-litre is adequate but not particularly exciting despite having its gearing lowered to give added acceleration. The V6, though, is something else. Peugeot says diplomatically that it can reach more than 145mph "on a race track".

Peugeot has timed the 406's arrival very neatly as production ends of both the Ford Probe and Vauxhall Calibra. However, 406 Coupés will hardly be flooding the market. Dick Parham, Peugeot's managing director reckons to sell about 2,800 a year and is confident the car will maintain a very high residual value.



Peugeot 406 Coupé: priced to be highly competitive in a sector dominated by BMW's 3-series

406 COUPÉ

Engine: Four-cylinder 1998cc 135 bhp; V6 2946cc.

Transmissions: Five-speed manual or four-speed auto.

Performance: 2-litre, 0-62mph in 10.4 secs, top speed 126 mph. 3-litre V6, 0-62mph in 7.9 secs, top speed 146mph.

Price: £20,120-£26,420.

litre. Peugeot says it is aware of the need to introduce direct injection diesels to replace its indirect type. It plans to do so — with some advanced technology for maximum economy and to control noise levels.

Power steering is standard on the new 306 and air conditioning is available on several models. Peugeot has a turnover of more than £2 billion a year in the UK and Parham says productivity last year was 19 per cent up and warranty costs markedly down. Peugeot UK's French parent is investing at Ryton and next year will see production start there of the 205 replacement, the 206 Ti.

That car will major on packaging, style and comfort with fine handling and dynamic qualities. Jordanian goats will be delighted.

an unexpected recipe for the to be let's say... snigger... may be due to... out needlessly with either his... my corners... road (BBC)... thing expert... d a viewer... shed more... it actually... d reflect... illuminate... sitting... get one... four of...
E ng on... stalle... ter will... we of... er No... und...
7.30... ntures... 8.30...
ve (r)... eden...
ssu... the... rily...
set... ty... y... i...

Alan Copps looks at Porsche legends displaying ultimate power at Goodwood's Festival of Speed — and you could be there

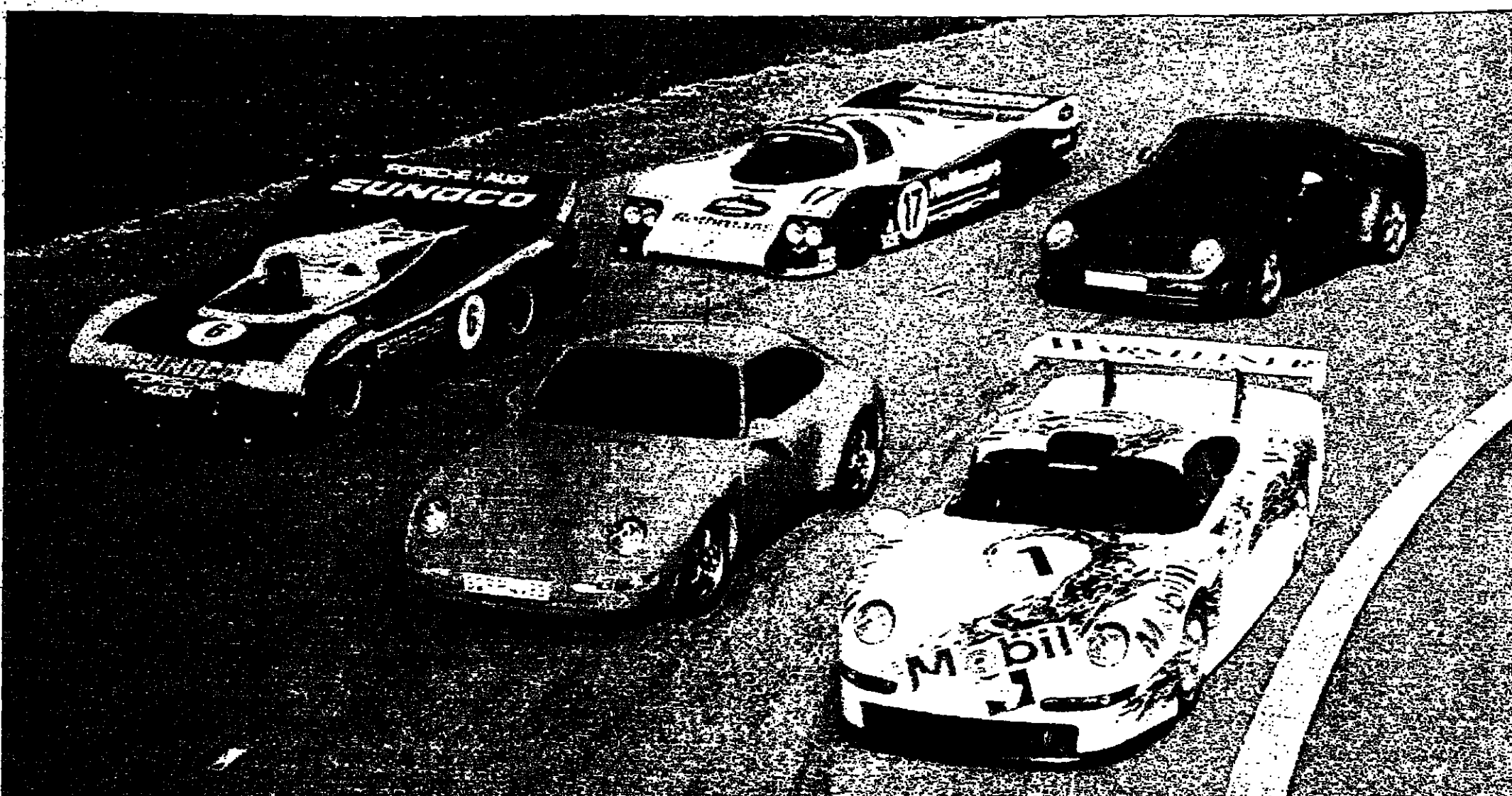


Win your place in the history of motorsport

IN JUST four years, the Goodwood Festival of Speed has become one of the most important historic motorsport meetings in Europe. This year's event is dedicated to "Decades of Power" giving British fans a chance to see many machines in this country for the first time. A display to mark Ferrari's 50th anniversary is being sponsored by The Times.

Tickets for the three days from June 20-22 are already in heavy demand, but CAR 97 is offering readers a chance to win two pairs of tickets valid for all three days, together with T-shirts, posters and programmes. All you have to do is answer the following question: Who were Jacky Ickx's co-drivers in his 1977 victory at the Le Mans 24-hour race?

Send your answer on a postcard to: Goodwood Contest, Car 97, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Winners will be drawn from all correct entries. Usual rules apply. Closing date is May 20.



Clockwise from left, the 917/30, which dominated the 1973 CanAm series; the 962, Le Mans winner in 1987; the 959 supercar; the 911 GTT which Hans Stuck will drive at Goodwood; the latest 911 Carrera road car

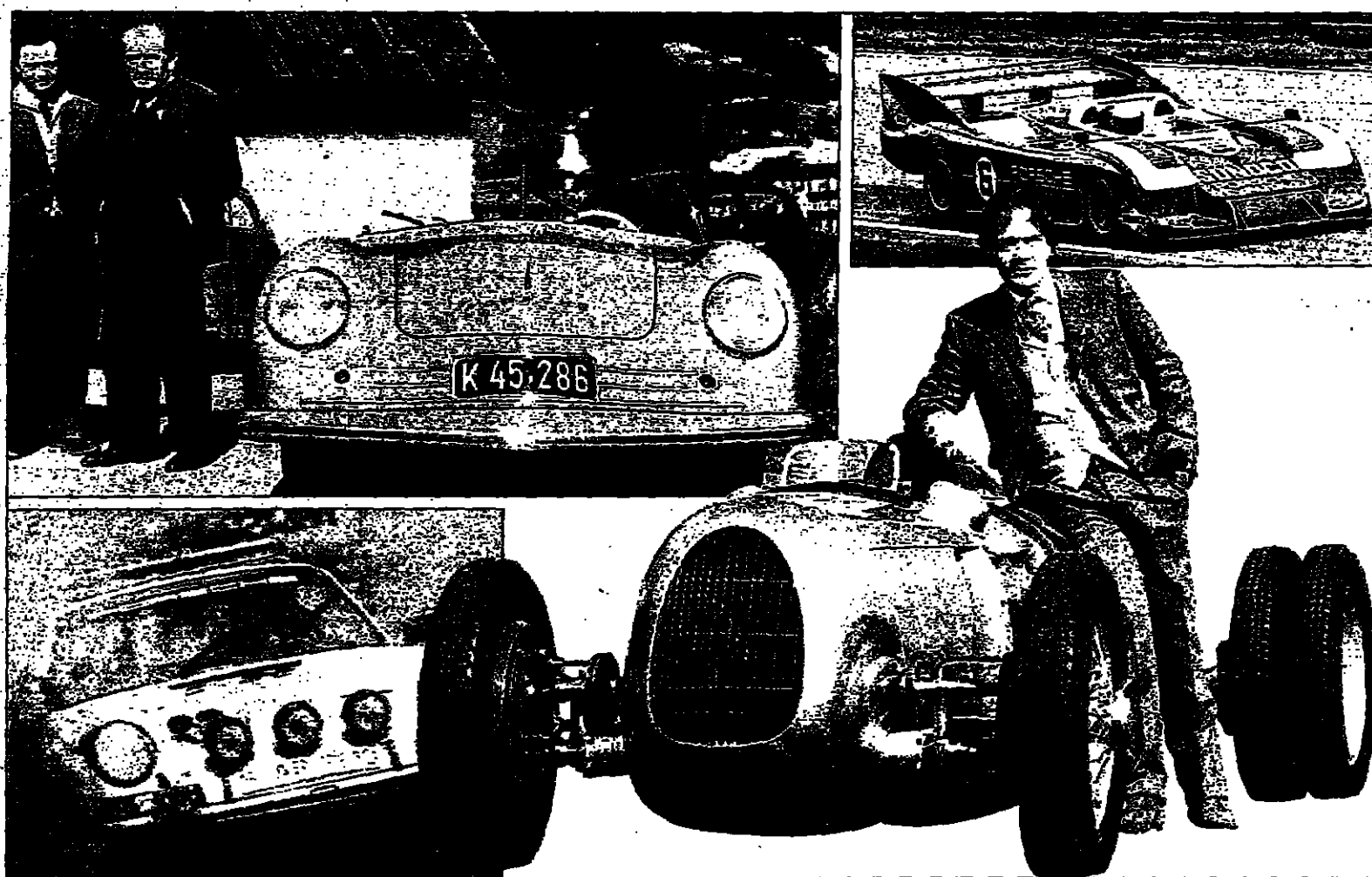
The V16 roars back after 60 years

Ferdinand Porsche has a lot to answer for in the world of motoring: in the first years of this century he designed an electric car, and in the 1920s was responsible for the powerful supercharged SSK, probably the most famous pre-war Mercedes-Benz tourer.

In the following decade it was his design, the striking mid-engined Auto Union, that challenged the might of Mercedes on the Grand Prix tracks of Europe in the great battles of the "Silver Arrows". At the same time he worked on Hitler's peoples' car that became the Volkswagen Beetle. But by then Dr Porsche had moved on to found the company that bears his name and that, under the direction of his son Ferry, dominated sports car and GT racing for so long and holds a record of 14 wins at the Le Mans 24-hour race.

So at an event like the Goodwood Festival of Speed, dedicated to "Decades of Power", it is not surprising that his name should be prominent. But rarely has it appeared in such a dramatic context as that of the Auto Union V16, certain to be one of the stars of the show and making its postwar competition debut and its first appearance in Britain for more than 60 years.

The below of this groundbreaking, mid-engined car's exhaust will reverberate across the Sussex Downs when Hans-Joachim Stuck, touring car champion, double Le Mans winner and ex-Formula One driver, takes the wheel of the only V16 known to have survived intact. It is the same type of car that his father, Hans Stuck, renowned as Europe's "mountain master", drove at the Shelsley Walsh hill climb in June 1936. In those days hill climbing was almost as important as track racing, the championship carried great prestige and some of the most innovative designers fought to win it. For such events the Auto Union ran with a six-wheeled layout to provide extra grip at the rear. There could be no more



Clockwise from top, Ferry and Ferdinand Porsche with a Type 356 in 1948; the 917/30; Lord March with the V16; the 911 SC Safari Rally car of 1978

appropriate car for a venue like Goodwood where the famous hill runs past Lord March's stately home.

This particular car scored its last victory at the Grossglockner hill climb just one month before the outbreak of war. Mercedes dispersed its Silver Arrows when war came, anxious to preserve their world-leading technology, and most were later recovered.

But when the Soviets took control of Lower Saxony in 1945 they found the Auto Union grand prix and mountain climb cars tucked away in the factories. They were promptly packed off to Moscow for technical examination

and then disappeared into the vastness of the former Soviet Union. Only a show chassis of a 1936 C-type grand prix car, made for display at a Munich museum and subsequently restored to working order by Audi, remained in the West. It will be on static display at Goodwood.

During the Cold War three V12 D-type cars were discovered and brought out of the Soviet bloc for restoration. But there was no trace of the V16s until the one that will run at Goodwood was found in a battered but virtually complete state in Latvia in the early 1970s and put on display in the Riga museum. It was

bought by Audi a few years ago and is just completing a restoration by the experts of Crosthwaite and Gardiner at Buxted in Sussex.

But if the V16 was the pinnacle of Dr Porsche's pre-war racing achievement there is no shortage of the cars that bear his name now and have scored so many dramatic successes since 1951. Between 1981 and 87, Porsche scored seven successive outright wins at Le Mans and in 1994 it not only won outright but won three other classes as well.

The most recent Porsche to be roaring up the Goodwood hill will be the 911 GTT of 1978 which took second and third

places at Le Mans on its debut and went on to win every international GT race of the season. It will also be driven by Stuck. Another Le Mans winner making its debut in Britain is the 936 Spyder in which the Belgian driver Jacky Ickx, scored the most spectacular of his six Le Mans victories in 1977, taking over the car in 41st position and with co-drivers Jürgen Barth and Hurley Haywood carving through the field to take the chequered flag.

A Porsche will be one of the most powerful machines on display, the ground-shaking 1100bhp 917/30 which in the hands of Mark Donohue dom-

inated the CanAm race series of 1973, the North American contest for the biggest, fastest and most spectacular sports cars. It holds the record for the fastest lap on any closed circuit anywhere in the world, set at a speed of just over 220mph with Donohue driving at the Talladega Oval in Alabama in 1975.

To make sure that no one ignores the other part of the Porsche legend, the company's rallying triumphs will be represented by the 911 SC Safari Rally car of 1978 which will be driven by double world rally champion Walter Röhrl.

Advance booking hotline: 01243-787766.

Win a VIP trip to the 1997 LE MANS 24HR RACE courtesy of Porsche

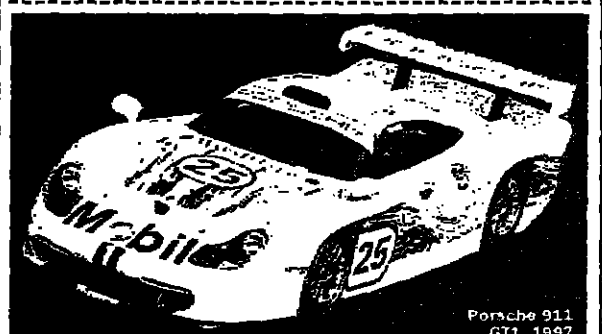
Porsche Cars Great Britain Limited is offering readers of The Times the exclusive opportunity to win a VIP trip for two people to the 1997 Le Mans 24hr race.

Traveling by Eurostar to Paris on 13th June, you will be welcomed in the evening at the Hotel Meridien Montparnasse and receive a race pack to help you enjoy the event. After breakfast on Saturday, guests will travel by TGV to Le Mans and be hosted at the Porsche/Mobil hospitality marquee. You will meet the teams and drivers, with

access to the grandstand and hospitality areas. Lunch and dinner, with a show, are included. Overnight accommodation is in luxury sleeper wagon. On Sunday, we hope that lunch will be followed by a victory party prior to returning to Paris for the last evening and returning to London by Eurostar on Monday 16th June.

The draw will take place on May 31st and the winner notified by telephone on June 3rd 1997. No alternative or cash can be taken instead. Porsche assume that by entering the draw, respondents are able to attend on the 13th June. Travel to London and additional expenses are not included in the prize.

Mr/Ms/Miss/Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Daytime tel: _____ Evening tel: _____
Current car make: _____ Model: _____
Is this a company or private car? _____
For further information on Porsche, please complete the following:
Model of interest: New or used: _____
Approx. Budget: _____
Expected purchase date (month and year): _____



To enter the Porsche Le Mans draw, all you have to do is complete and return the coupon below to: Porsche Le Mans, c/o Intermail Limited, 10 Fleming Road, Newbury, RG14 2DE.

McLaren bids to endure again

Morag Preston looks at Silverstone's British Empire Trophy race meeting

Less than a month before Le Mans, more than 50 top-notch cars will battle it out at Silverstone tomorrow for the second round of the 1997 FIA GT Championship.

Five manufacturers, including last year's Empire Race winners McLaren, will be vying for victory at the 3.194-mile grand prix circuit in Northamptonshire on the third day of the British Empire Trophy race meeting. In the line-up for the four-hour endurance race will be some of the top cars competing in the 24-hour French classic.

The new FIA GT worldwide championship has grown out of the BPR Global Endurance series, set up in 1994 by three wealthy businessmen with a passion for racing sports cars based on road cars — Jürgen Barth, Patrick Peter and Stéphane Ratel. Then the big car manufacturers caught wind of the new wave in sports car racing,

the television stations climbed on board, and the series took on a new, more exciting — albeit more expensive — face.

Porsche was among the first to push the barriers between road and race cars when it designed a vehicle, especially for last year's series. Then the FIA started to back the series and car a deal to bring BPR under its control. Now the majority of drivers are professionals — there are 16 former Formula 1 drivers and six Le Mans winners in the Empire Trophy race — and as of this year the amateur aspect has all but disappeared. Porsche 911 GTT, the car that made a mockery of McLaren on three outings in last year's Global Endurance GT Series, will be among those racing

tomorrow, with Hans Stuck and Thierry Boutsen in the driving seat.

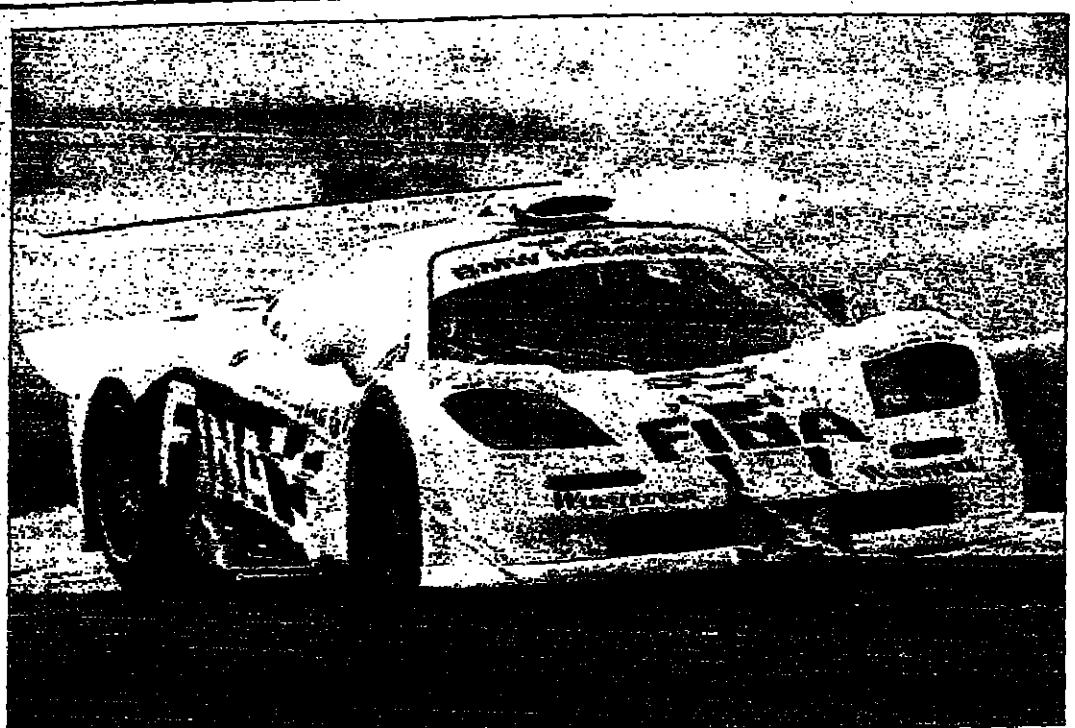
McLaren will be going for gold again after winning the first round of the FIA GT Championship in Hockenheim on April 13. The Team BMW F1 GTR, driven by Britain's touring car veteran Steve Soper, and his Finnish co-driver J.J. Lehto, dominated the four-hour event. Setting a record in the modern era of GT racing, they won by 90 seconds.

Making their UK debut will be a pair of Mercedes CLK Coupés. One managed five days of testing in two weeks leading up to the first round, and the second only arrived at the circuit a couple of hours before the first practice at Hock-

enheim. Bernd Schneider and Alex Wurz will be behind the wheel of the leading Mercedes CLK GTR. Meanwhile, Jan Lammers and Fabian Giroix will be racing for Lotus, whose neat, lightweight cars have all suffered teething problems as predicted.

Noel Edmonds will also be at the track to watch Panoz, his own race team, compete. His eyes will be fixed on the futuristic-looking V8-powered car from Irish-American Don Panoz driven by Britain's James Weaver, joint reigning GT endurance champion with Ray Bellm, and 1996 Empire Trophy winner Andy Wallace.

Two key support races will also take place tomorrow. The stars of the future will take to the track a British Formula 3 championship, while the potential grand prix stars of 1998 line up for the opening round of the 1997 Formula 3000 International series.



McLaren Team BMW, dominant force in the first round of the championship in Hockenheim

.....

**Approved
Used
Cars**

[illegible]

800-251-6444

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

FORD Explorer, V6, Eddie Bauer leather, sunroof, alloy wheels, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. 12,500. Tel: 0171 771 5595 / 5695.

TOYOTA Landcruiser V2 Turbo Diesel, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. 12,500. Tel: 0171 771 5595 / 5695.

MERCEDES

280GE
4x4, 4 reg, LWB, diamond silver, colour coded, alloys, recent tyres, bars and steps. Must be seen. £2890 ono. 01283 218451 / 221081.

DISCOVERY ES

TDI
Auto 1996 (H)
Barter, 25K, FSH.
may wife's
£22,500.
01789
720270/473.

LANDCRUISER

VX Auto
1994, LWB, 4 reg, superb cond. fully loaded, 1 year, 3 yr. 100,000 miles. £24,500.
0151 6370076 (h)/
637 1316 (w).

Stratstone

25-30 Street Hill,
Huddersfield, W.40B
Tel: 01484 345550
Mobile: 0171 738548

RANGE ROVER

4.6 HSE, 4x4, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £24,500.
0151 6370076 (h)/
637 1316 (w).

DISCOVERY

TDI, 4x4, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

ROVER

4.6 HSE, 4x4, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £24,500.
0151 6370076 (h)/
637 1316 (w).

JEOP

Grand Cherokee Limited, 5 door, automatic, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01509 222222

MERCEDES

C180

SPORT, 196N, Auto, imperial, CD, FMBHS, 12K, immac. £20,495.
Tel: 0115 9662300.

380 SLC

October 1980. Green. 98,000 miles. FSH. Very good condition. £9,950.
Tel: 01480 880329

E300D

Eleg 96N 10K A/C. Auto, Rad/Cass, Met green. £21,000.
M Barber
0181 951 0107

HIRE ME!

from only £150/day

Automania

CAR CLUB & SELF-DRIVE HIRE
07000 280280

JEOP

CHEROKEE

4.0, S.E. Limited edition. Racing green, beige leather, alloy wheels, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £14,795.
Tel: 01202 290751

CHEROKEE

Auto, 4x4, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £16,900.
Tel: 01245 222225.

GRAND CHEROKEE

LAREDO 4.0
petrol, no mileage, immediate delivery.
EPOA.
0802 225403

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY

TDI, 4x4, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

Stratstone

25-30 Street Hill,
Huddersfield, W.40B
Tel: 01484 345550
Mobile: 0171 738548

RANGE ROVER

4.6 HSE, 4x4, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £24,500.
0151 6370076 (h)/
637 1316 (w).

DISCOVERY

TDI, 4x4, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

ROVER

4.6 HSE, 4x4, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £24,500.
0151 6370076 (h)/
637 1316 (w).

JEOP

Grand Cherokee Limited, 5 door, automatic, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01509 222222

MERCEDES

C180

SPORT, 196N, Auto, imperial, CD, FMBHS, 12K, immac. £20,495.
Tel: 0115 9662300.

380 SLC

October 1980. Green. 98,000 miles. FSH. Very good condition. £9,950.
Tel: 01480 880329

E300D

Eleg 96N 10K A/C. Auto, Rad/Cass, Met green. £21,000.
M Barber
0181 951 0107

HIRE ME!

from only £150/day

Automania

CAR CLUB & SELF-DRIVE HIRE
07000 280280

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY

TDI 94M, 4 door, 7 seats, most extras & tow pack. FSH, 4 mths wnty. Niagara grey, 55K miles, excel condition. £15,700ono. 01295 678199.

DISCOVERY V8i

5 dr, 3000, 100,000 miles only. Metallic blue, 1st reg by Rover. 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

Discovery

TDI XS 5dr
V8, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

90SV

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

NEW 57 LANDROVER

DISCOVERY TURBO DIESEL. FANTASTIC SAVINGS ON ALL MODELS. 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

RANGE ROVER

4.6 HSE, 4x4, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £24,500.
0151 6370076 (h)/
637 1316 (w).

3.9 VOGUE

Manual, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SLK 200

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SL 320

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SLK 230

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

E36 AMG

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

E 220

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

E230

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SL600

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY

TDI 94M, 4 door, 7 seats, most extras & tow pack. FSH, 4 mths wnty. Niagara grey, 55K miles, excel condition. £15,700ono. 01295 678199.

DISCOVERY V8i

5 dr, 3000, 100,000 miles only. Metallic blue, 1st reg by Rover. 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

Discovery

TDI XS 5dr
V8, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

90SV

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

NEW 57 LANDROVER

DISCOVERY TURBO DIESEL. FANTASTIC SAVINGS ON ALL MODELS. 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

RANGE ROVER

4.6 HSE, 4x4, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £24,500.
0151 6370076 (h)/
637 1316 (w).

3.9 VOGUE

Manual, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SLK 200

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SL 320

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SLK 230

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

E36 AMG

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

E 220

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

E230

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SL600

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

MERCEDES

DISCOVERY

TDI 94M, 4 door, 7 seats, most extras & tow pack. FSH, 4 mths wnty. Niagara grey, 55K miles, excel condition. £15,700ono. 01295 678199.

DISCOVERY V8i

5 dr, 3000, 100,000 miles only. Metallic blue, 1st reg by Rover. 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

Discovery

TDI XS 5dr
V8, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

90SV

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

NEW 57 LANDROVER

DISCOVERY TURBO DIESEL. FANTASTIC SAVINGS ON ALL MODELS. 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

RANGE ROVER

4.6 HSE, 4x4, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £24,500.
0151 6370076 (h)/
637 1316 (w).

3.9 VOGUE

Manual, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SLK 200

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SL 320

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SLK 230

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

E36 AMG

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

E 220

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

E230

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SL600

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

MERCEDES

DISCOVERY

TDI 94M, 4 door, 7 seats, most extras & tow pack. FSH, 4 mths wnty. Niagara grey, 55K miles, excel condition. £15,700ono. 01295 678199.

DISCOVERY V8i

5 dr, 3000, 100,000 miles only. Metallic blue, 1st reg by Rover. 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

Discovery

TDI XS 5dr
V8, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

90SV

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

NEW 57 LANDROVER

DISCOVERY TURBO DIESEL. FANTASTIC SAVINGS ON ALL MODELS. 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

RANGE ROVER

4.6 HSE, 4x4, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £24,500.
0151 6370076 (h)/
637 1316 (w).

3.9 VOGUE

Manual, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SLK 200

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SL 320

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SLK 230

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

E36 AMG

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

E 220

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

E230

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

SL600

1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

MERCEDES

DISCOVERY

TDI 94M, 4 door, 7 seats, most extras & tow pack. FSH, 4 mths wnty. Niagara grey, 55K miles, excel condition. £15,700ono. 01295 678199.

DISCOVERY V8i

5 dr, 3000, 100,000 miles only. Metallic blue, 1st reg by Rover. 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789
720270/473.

Discovery

TDI XS 5dr
V8, 1996, 100,000 miles, 1997 reg. £22,500.
01789

Poetic justice for the mooning jobs

STEERING COLUMN

Trying to insult TV investigator Roger Cook can lead to disaster even when he's off duty, says Simon Hacker

challenge of understeer! My first proper sports car was a Singer Le Mans.

What car do you drive now, and why?

I'm on my second XJR. Given the automatic box, it's a very sensible choice of transport. I live in it. Mine has one small change, though, which Jaguar took the trouble to make at my request: unlike the standard model, the chrome grille doesn't match the body colour — it's nice to be able to have a personal influence on your car's final specification.

Do you like driving?

I like driving almost anywhere and I'm happy to use a car in most countries. You can overdo, of course, but the XJR does a sensible job, while allowing you to be enthusiastic at the same time. It adds up to two tonnes of metal which handles with all the ease of a toy.

What is your most hated car?

I haven't got one. In fact, I don't think a manufacturer could get away with making a "bad" car now. There are none that I particularly dislike.

What is your dream car?

It changes according to my dreams, but I suppose I'm lucky with what I have: my Grinnall Scorpion is apt if you dream of being close to the road and want all the thrills of



Cook and Jaguar XJR: "At my request, the chrome grille doesn't match the body colour — it's nice to have an influence on your car's final specification"

a powerful motorbike, but with none of the spills. And when you want crude grunt, the MGB does the job. The Jaguar is the sophisticated express. Between them, I think they get to the parts one single car couldn't reach!

What is your worst habit in the car?

Being a nervous passenger, but I've learnt to let go now and can even sleep while on the move.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Aggression, particularly the

sort of thing you see on the motorway. Driving habits are definitely more pushy in the UK than when I first arrived. I think much of it is not directed at you personally, but more because of what you are driving.

I also have a nice revenge story about bad behaviour. I was once driving along in a nice car and some yobs in a Corvair came alongside me and recognised me. Their behaviour was well out of court and two of them mooned out of the back window. But a God-given opportunity for poetic justice arose: at the next traffic lights they were so engrossed in

trying to get a reaction from me that their car went straight into the back of a police patrol car. Try explaining that to an officer!

What is the most unusual thing you have ever done in your car?

Pretending to be a property developer while staging a "sting" on a paramilitary extortionist for the Cook Report. He was demanding money from me with a gun. The whole thing was being secretly filmed and I was wired up. It was quite dangerous. He was subsequently jailed for 12 years.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Well, you can take things too far. Consumers — which includes motorists — have more protection that they realise.

What do you listen to in the car?

Not much. I like to drive in silence and if passengers are too chatty, I tend to glaze over.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Since I came here in 1968 I've only committed three offences

— all for speeding — although the first time I was only four or five miles an hour over the limit, on a clear road. I asked the officer at the time if he might exercise his discretion and he said "That's exactly what I'm doing."

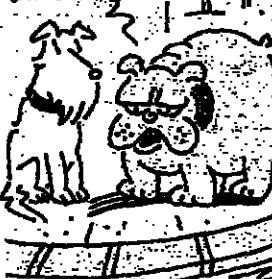
What's your favourite car advertisement?

I don't watch much TV because I'm too busy making it. But I love Saab's approach: the visual transformation between a car and plane is a very successful image and, having owned Saabs in the past, I think it's true to the spirit of their cars.

IT MUST BE GREAT TO HAVE A RUSH HOUR



OF COURSE I ONLY CHASE BRITISH CARS



IT'S AN ECONOMICAL FOREIGN MODEL



Haldane

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

CLASSIC NOUVEAU

REGISTRATION	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	32nd	33rd	34th	35th	36th	37th	38th	39th	40th	41st	42nd	43rd	44th	45th	46th	47th	48th	49th	50th	51st	52nd	53rd	54th	55th	56th	57th	58th	59th	60th	61st	62nd	63rd	64th	65th	66th	67th	68th	69th	70th	71st	72nd	73rd	74th	75th	76th	77th	78th	79th	80th	81st	82nd	83rd	84th	85th	86th	87th	88th	89th	90th	91st	92nd	93rd	94th	95th	96th	97th	98th	99th	100th
1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100

QUALITY 01949 851000 M.A.R.A.D.

NO. WANTED OPEN 7 DAYS SOME VAT

REGISTRATION	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	32nd	33rd	34th	35th	36th	37th	38th	39th	40th	41st	42nd	43rd	44th	45th	46th	47th	48th	49th	50th	51st	52nd	53rd	54th	55th	56th	57th	58th	59th	60th	61st	62nd	63rd	64th	65th	66th	67th	68th	69th	70th	71st	72nd	73rd	74th	75th	76th	77th	78th	79th	80th	81st	82nd	83rd	84th	85th	86th	87th	88th	89th	90th	91st	92nd	93rd	94th	95th	96th	97th	98th	99th	100th
1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100

D K REGISTRATIONS

01787 312222

MAIN TELEPHONE OF NUMBERS AVAILABLE FROM OUR COMPUTER LISTINGS

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

PRIVATE ADVERTISING OPENING TIMES

MONDAY & TUESDAY 9AM-6PM

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9AM-7PM

FRIDAY 9AM-6PM

SATURDAY 9AM-4PM

SUNDAY 10AM-4PM

TEL: 0171 481 4000 FAX: 0171 782 7799

01792 77 33 66

open 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

DVLA's next Classic Collection auction will be held on the 7/8 June 1997 at Ascot Pavilion, Ascot Racecourse. For a full list of numbers available at this auction telephone 0113 382 0707 or call 24 hours a day FREE on 0800 60 30 90 for your catalogue which costs £7 and admits two people.

IF IT IS YOUR INTENTION TO MIS-SPACE OR MISREPRESENT YOUR REGISTRATION IN ANY WAY DO NOT BUY DVLA reserves the right to withhold certain registrations, some of which may be offered for sale at auction. Numbers are sold subject to the Sale of Registration Numbers Regulations and are subject to availability. Prices are subject to change without prior notice.

Figure contributions outside the scope of this DVLA sales scheme are not available. Registrations cannot be used to make a vehicle look younger than it is.

THE REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

01792 77 33 66

01792 77 33 66

01792 77 33 66

01792 77 33 66

01792 77 33 66

01792 77 33 66

01792 77 33 66

01792 77 33 66

01792 77 33 66

Premier Plates

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

MARKET RESEARCH

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

01257 482305

It's a long way off Route 66, but Southampton is where Harley Davidson owners get their kicks, says Kate Laven



John Potter, whose children told him to transform his image if he was to run Dockgate 20 Motorcycles, where the showroom is filled with the roar of Milwaukee iron thunder and satisfies every whim and urge of a Harley Davidson owner

Dockgate 20, paradise for HOGs

John Potter's teenage children were the first to suggest that he should transform his image if he was to be the owner of the largest Harley Davidson dealership in Europe.

Even if the Southampton location wasn't exactly as hip as West Coast America, he still needed to demonstrate an understanding of the icon and its following, his kids told him.

Presiding over the recent opening of the dealership, the Kent businessman, who has ploughed £1.5 million into the new project, looked like any other punter, yet one quick look over his "shop" and there is no doubt that Potter, bandana or no bandana, is utterly in tune with his market.

Dockgate 20 Motorcycles could well have been named to evoke images of a Californian quayside — shotgun exhaust, chrome headlight and Peter Fonda lookalike against a moody sunset background.

Instead it was named to take advantage of all the signs that start appearing from some

distance out of the city directing truckers to the Dockgate 20 container terminal. It's optimum use of available resources, says Potter, who describes himself as businessman first, passionate biker second.

Together with his managing director, the former Australian motorcycling champion Paul Lewis, he kitted out the specially-converted premises to take maximum advantage of the universal adoration for Harley Davidson machines and the lifestyle that ownership affords.

As a result, he has created not merely a bike shop but a unique cult centre satisfying every whim and urge a Harley owner might experience in the space of a lifetime.

What Harley owners love to do best when they are not actually riding the legendary bike is to talk about riding it with other bikers. They love to feel part of the Harley family,

so at Dockgate 20, customers are urged to park up and chill out in the diner with a cup of frothy coffee and a band of like-minded HOGs (Harley Owners Group members) for company.

What do they own, what have they owned, what would they own and what accessories would they bolt on? This is what they talk about and there are plenty of hefty priced items displayed around them to stimulate the imagination.

The diner, incidentally, has also found favour among apprentices from the next door industrial estate who are attracted by the burgers, the view and an opportunity for a shoot out on the pool table.

Since posing is a big part of Harley ownership, a third of the 11,000 sq ft showroom is devoted to merchandise, mostly in the ubiquitous black and chrome.

The rows of leather jackets, watches, sunglasses and

boots, the branded babygros for mini-HOGs and other paraphernalia is a spectacular exhibit in itself.

It appeared untouchable, although the 3,000 people who turned up for the launch found it highly touchable and handed over huge wads of notes for the privilege of bearing the famous name somewhere about their body, as Potter and Lewis suspected they might.

Add to all this an insulated booth where bikers can go and have their noise and power output measured and documented — for bragging purposes in the diner — the image-enhancing music and the grins that appear on people's faces when the roar of Milwaukee iron thunder fills the showroom and you have a one-stop indulgence shop.

The appeal of the Harley Davidson in Southampton might come as a surprise to those who see the city purely as an unfashionable also-ran

in the Premier League. But, according to customers and management, there is much about the place which makes it the perfect South Coast location. Forget Route 66 and Malibu beach. Consider instead the M27 and Bournemouth pier.

It is surrounded by motorways, which are ideal terrain for Harleys, and there are lots of good beaches in the region where one can go and pose," says Sue Robinson, a Southampton general practitioner, one of the first of a dozen customers to place an order

before Dockgate 20 had opened its door to the public. To Potter and Lewis, the reasons for choosing Southampton were less esoteric.

"We did a lot of research and found that Southampton had a strong HOG chapter in the New Forest and ranked quite high as far as disposable income was concerned and both of these were important."

Potter had owned a Harley Davidson for two years before the idea for a dealership struck. "I thought it might be really enjoyable to be part of this whole environment and atmosphere," he explains, eyes flashing.

Ironically, his competition for a South Coast franchise turned out to be Lewis, who ran a flourishing motorbike accessories shop in Southampton but, instead of pitching them against each other, the team at Harley Davidson UK spotted their potential as a partnership and gently nurtured it.

Lewis had vision and years of experience in competitive motorbiking but no immediate access to funds. Potter on the other hand had money but was short on experience of the retail motorcycle industry, though he had run his own successful mouldings com-

pany in Broadstairs for more than ten years.

"I was with the Harley Davidson guys looking at some property in Southampton one day and they said 'We want you to take a look at the other bidder, Paul Lewis, because everyone loves him and he is a good operator'. I went into his shop and mystery shopped him. He sold me a leather jacket and a pair of Oakley sunglasses inside ten minutes and I thought 'This guy is really good'."

Inevitably there have been some arguments along the way, but the partnership has become more dynamic as it has matured.

"It wasn't until we saw this building that we started to really talk about how we wanted the place to look and feel though we both knew we did not want a boutique. We sat down and addressed every aspect of the business from the people perspective, both staff-wise and customer."

The property developer who sold them the building was, like a lot of their suppliers and advisers, a Harley owner. Some of those who did not previously own a Harley have now become customers. All the staff are committed devotees of the marque.

The initial success of Dockgate 20 lies in the recognition that this sort of passion can be embraced, harnessed and put to effective commercial use without any accompanying cynicism to spoil the fun. It leaves you wondering what Potter and Lewis would do if they had a caravan dealership.



Paul Lewis: "I thought it might be really enjoyable to be part of this whole environment"

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

Play Fantasy Formula One

Prizes worth £40,000

There are 600 extra points to be picked up with tomorrow's Monaco Grand Prix, the second of six races offering bonus points in our competition. Below we feature the fantasy scores after the San Marino Grand Prix and our leaderboard which shows B Tama of Chelmsford, Essex, leading the race for our £25,000 grand prize with his team, Tama, on 3,224 points.

TO ENTER If you have not yet entered a team into our £40,000 competition use the panel, below right, to make three selections from each of the four groups and call 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK).

THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score after the Portuguese Grand Prix on October 26, will win the first prize of £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro World Championship

team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up. The manager with the most points in the Monaco Grand Prix will win a trip for two to the British Grand Prix on July 13. The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation and Formula One game worth £250.

TRANSFERS You can change up to four selections before the Spanish Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon Thursday, May 22. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three drivers you select will be your prediction for the British GP bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position after the Monaco Grand Prix on 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK) with your 10-digit PIN number. Lines will open on Wednesday.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE SAN MARINO GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	Tama	B Tama	3224
2	Tetch-Mesters Racing	B J Day	3131
3	Farside Racing	R M Hunt	3097
4	Dragon Racing	R Davis	3060
5	Salih Arrows	S O Okufuwa	3046
6	Parkhurst Racing	L Danson	3036
7	No Team Name	J Le Mort	3034
8	Bleak Outlook	D Hilditch	3031
9	Blitz 'Em All	N Timar	3018
10	Kernow	M Turf	3017
11	Ivy No Ads Pls	K G Hunter	3017
12	No Team Name	No Name	3017
13	Ben Elton	S Nicholls	3017
14	Midnight Runners	D Deacon	3017
15	Go West	G Milne	3017
16	Cherokes	L Lenehan	3007
17	No Team Name	No Name	3007
18	Gary's Wacky Racers	G R Taylor	3007
19	Eric's Mob	E Winterbottom	3007
20	Team Libra	R J Rumble	3007
21	Markati	D T Haworth	3007
22	Delta Integrale	B Rashidian	3007
23	Rand Runners	M Rand	3007
24	Over The Hill?	C J Rice	3005
25	Deals & Bugs Racing	R H Brooks	3004

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

The first column of figures will give you the names show the Fantasy Formula One San Marino GP race scores, the second column the total competition points so far

01 D Hill	3 130	07 M Hakkinen	114 514
02 M Schumacher	139 413	08 D Coulthard	45 318
03 J Villeneuve	80 414	09 R Barrichello	36 149
04 E Irvine	138 408	10 H-H Frenzen	160 402
05 J Alesi	130 421	11 J Herbert	28 302
06 G Berger	10 425	12 M Salo	123 421
13 O Panis	110 399	19 G Fisichella	119 286
14 J Verstappen	117 260	20 S Nakano	10 283
15 U Katajama	115 268	21 N Larini	118 431
16 P Diniz	53 223	22 J Trulli	-3 361
17 R Rosset	0 0	23 J Magnussen	3 161
18 R Schumacher	29 226	24 V Sospiri	0 0
25 Williams	20 69	31 Arrows	-30 -53
26 Ferrari	25 77	32 Sauber	10 54
27 McLaren	11 76	33 Tyrrell	18 21
28 Benetton	12 71	34 Minardi	6 37
29 Jordan	15 16	35 Stewart	-20 -43
30 Prost	9 35	36 Lola	0 0

Park, unfold and pedal away

Launching its vision for the future, the RAC has gone back to when mini skirts and the Beatles were more likely to be on the lips than congestion, air pollution and global warming.

The club has developed a new image, backed up by high profile advertisements, for the 21st century to reflect modern environmental concerns.

Part of this vision includes its RAC All Purpose Bicycle, a folding machine designed to pop in the boot or be carried on the train. It may appear a futuristic machine and a key weapon in the war to reduce dependence on the car for short or commuter journeys.

But its design and pedigree dates back to the Sixties when Sir Alex Moulton, designer of the first popular small wheeled bicycle which sold hundreds of thousands. And the RAC bike is an updated design by Sir Alex who, among his many claims to fame, designed the suspension systems for the Metro and the new MG.

The RAC has turned the clock back to the Sixties with a new Moulton bike. Nick Nuttall went for a spin

is rigid and strong, to minimise twisting and allow the rider to deliver maximum power to the pedals. Suspension systems on both wheels enable the cyclist to ride over rather than disappear into potholes. In the classic Moulton way, the new bicycle splits into two parts for storage using an alien key housed under the seat.

However, the look is decidedly contemporary, and owes much to the popular mountain bike. It has a Sturney Archer 7-speed hub gear system which simply twists on the handlebars.

While the rest of the world may remain wedded to big wheeled bikes, Sir Alex believes his designs remain superior. On a recent visit to the engineer's house in the heart of the Gloucestershire countryside, he was keen to stress the virtues of small wheeled bikes.

"Look at the Lotus bike which did so well in the Olympics. Chris Boardman may have achieved 35-36mph an hour on it at the Olympics, but the world record for a fully streamlined bicycle in a conventional position is held by us at 51mph," he said.

The record of 51.29mph was achieved by Jim Glover in Vancouver, Canada, on August 29, 1986.

Smaller wheels can improve acceleration, speed and roadholding and allow the rider to maintain a tight

position behind a competitor on a large-wheeled machine, claims Sir Alex.

"That's Tommy Simpson, the greatest cyclist of that period, on a Moulton Speed," he said, poring over photographs of celebrities riding his cycles during the Sixties. "He said that if he had not been racing for Peugeot, he would have chosen to ride a Moulton. That was before the regulations [prohibiting wheels smaller than 27 inches in diameter] came in."

The various guises of the original Moulton sported 16in or 17in wheels whose tyres were not widely available. But the popularity of BMX bicycles means that 20in tyres are easy to find.

Riding the new machine is certainly fun but also a compromise. Little wheels allow much faster acceleration from traffic lights but can become a touch tiresome when pedalling over large distances which, on a bigger bike at high speed, can be covered more quickly.

The suspension, while smooth, also seems to consume some of the cyclist's energy which might be better directed at propulsion.

Nevertheless, in cities it offers an eye-catching icon as you sail past car and lorry drivers bumper to bumper spewing fumes.

The RAC All Purpose Bicycle costs £549, which may seem pricey but compares well with other hand-made machines.



The RAC All Purpose Bicycle: reflecting modern environmental concerns

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls)

CHANGING TIMES

REF T1005


Driver and Vehicle
Licensing Agency

E
 g on
 tative,
 or will
 ee of
 No
 und:
 7.30
 8.30

100